



The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

Contents:

REVIEW OF THE WEEK—	PAGE
Sanitary Matters.....	962
Louis Blanc's Reply to the French Government.....	962
America.....	963
The Orient.....	963
Moldavia and Wallachia.....	964
Ireland.....	964
Continental Notes.....	964
The Registrations.....	966
Naval and Military.....	966
Our Civilization.....	967

Accidents and Sudden Deaths.....	969
State of Trade.....	969
Miscellaneous.....	970
Postscript.....	971
PUBLIC AFFAIRS—	
The Sign from France.....	972
British Right over Wives and Paupers.....	972
The Sixth Part of the World.....	973
The Napoleon of Westminster.....	973
The Danubian Principalities.....	974

The Big, Bold, Old, Bad Man.....	974
Lord Cardigan's Charge at Home.....	974
A New Tory Organ.....	975
The Kingswood Reformatory.....	975
OPEN COUNCIL—	
Book Adulterations.....	976
Patronage.....	976
LITERATURE—	
Summary.....	977
Lamennais.....	977

Beaumarchais.....	976
The Last Days of the War.....	976
Latter-Day Poetry.....	979
THE ARTS—	
The Fountains at the Crystal Palace.....	980
The Gazette.....	981
COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
City Intelligence, Markets, &c.....	982

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Review of the Week.

If signs, extra-official documents, and gigantic reserves, imply what they appear to do, a vast change is about to come over the whole face of our European relations. The act of "immense ingratitude" is about to be excelled by an act of immense treachery perhaps unequalled in history. The Absolutist Powers are evidently gaining heart, and are preparing for a combined attack on the Western Powers: this they are proposing to do, not only by a combination of their arms, but also by that intrigue which no statesmen use so ably or unscrupulously as Russia; and by working upon the fears of the Western Powers, if not upon the apprehensions and the hopes of individuals at the courts of those Powers.

According to the latest accounts which we have received, all the Absolutist Governments have assumed a new position. Austria, it is said, has cast off the mask in the Danubian Principalities, has advanced her army to Galatz, dispossessed the provincial Government, and is now avowedly in the military occupation of the Principalities. If so, this is a direct infringement of the Treaty of Paris, according to which her troops were to withdraw, and were only resident in the Principalities, without military action there. If it is true, it follows that Austria conceives a time to have come when she can despise France and England, and can act more independently. Concurrently with this act, a newspaper at Frankfort has been the channel for proclaiming to the world that Austria has, by a secret article of a treaty of 1815, a stipulation under which the King of NAPLES is prevented from modifying his institutions, or from governing on any other principles than those on which Austria governs in her Italian provinces; Austria claiming the right to interfere in the other Italian states through her relationship with the Princes of Italy, and her geographical position. This claim of Austria to a tutelary Government of Italy, and to resistance of the Western Powers, is exactly in harmony with the official views lately put forth by Austria, and with the late Russian circular.

At the same time the King of NAPLES has, it is said, written a letter to the Emperor of FRANCE and the Queen of ENGLAND, proposing to send a plenipotentiary to the conference at Paris, there to state the intentions of his Majesty with respect

to an amnesty and to organic reforms. This implies that the King expects to find a much stronger position in the Paris conference than he has in the Bay of Naples; and it will be remembered that Russia has decidedly announced a disposition to protect Naples.

What is the course that the Western Powers are taking? It is a matter of absolute secrecy. The one fact before the public is, that they have not sent a fleet into Naples. Much is made of the circumstance that they have sent some ships to Corsica; and there the ships remain. This might mean that the Western Powers acknowledge their hearts to fail them, and that they are prepared to yield before the recovered courage and energy of the Absolutist Powers. Should this be the case, it is not at all probable that Prussia will be neutral, since she is claiming a restoration of the province which lapsed from her in 1848 to Switzerland—Neuchâtel; another circumstance which implies an increase in the combined strength of the Eastern Powers, and which would account for the signs of yielding on the part of the West.

We do not even make light of such a fact as the arrival of NARYAEZ at Madrid. He is a soldier absolutist, and he adds, no doubt, another commander at an outpost of absolutism who would be prepared for general action with the Eastern Powers.

Politics for the time have given place in France to finance. The situation has become much more difficult than it was even last week; so much so, that the Finance Minister has thought it necessary to make a kind of apology to the public for the condition of money matters, and to make an attack upon the bullion dealers who have been buying up silver for the purposes of exportation or reconversion into raw silver. M. MAGNE represents that the revenue is in the best condition. There has for years been a deficiency of the income as compared with the expenditure; but this has been steadily decreasing under the Empire, and he expects to bring it to an equal balance in 1858. The taxes have been extremely productive—nearly a million and a half of increase, or about two-thirds of the indirect taxes. They are punctually paid, or paid even in advance.

The trade of France has extended itself into various channels, and this extension is one reason why there is such a demand at present for money. The principal cause of the crisis in the money market is, he says, the multiplicity of securities, and it is necessary to check the over-abundant

speculation. In these statements, M. MAGNE says much that is in conformity with truth, and in conformity also with general opinion. There is no doubt that some of the speculations in France have been of an exceedingly intelligent and profitable character. He alludes to the export of capital to foreign parts; and here, while he trenches upon the old protectionist view in France, he is speaking at the Société de Crédit Mobilier, which has speculations in various parts of the world, and more especially for present consideration in Austrian railways, far advanced, and in Russian railways about to be undertaken. Now, in this export of capital, the Crédit Mobilier is acting like our own great capitalists, and in the Russian railways there is positively a partnership with English, Dutch, and Russian capitalists. Such investments, if they are successful, always promote a large return to the country from which they spring, and in England we understand as much; but from M. MAGNE's allusion, we see that a gentleman who adopts "the indisputable principle of commercial freedom," shares the old jealousy of free trade, and the new jealousy of the Crédit Mobilier; confounding the foreign operations of that company with the most worthless speculations in his desire for restrictive measures.

In the meanwhile, the Bank has not been exactly following the Finance Minister; it has not refused its accommodation, but has only restricted it. It now grants discounts only on bills not having more than sixty days to run, and it has consequently put a stop to many of the less substantial speculations in France. The latest published accounts of the Bank of France show, like our own, a considerable increase of outgoing, and a decrease of the bullion.

M. MAGNE has taken another step: following up a hint in his report in the *Moniteur*, he has put a notification that "the sorting and melting down the coin, to extract the surplus value therefrom, is an injury inflicted upon the public purse, and constitutes a penal offence," which the Government "will adopt every legal means of suppressing." The Government, therefore, is resorting to force in the administration of money matters—a resort which is a confession of alarm, and is almost invariably mischievous.

Our own Bank has more than followed up that of France. During the fortnight before the present week it had undergone a pressure of an extraordinary kind. The latest Bank return showed an

increase in the securities to the amount of 1,324,827l., and a decrease in the bullion to the amount of 363,230l. But that was only a part of the change which has been going on much more severely since. This continued outflow of the means at the command of the Bank was not stopped by the increase of discount from 4½ to 5 per cent., on the 1st instant; after the first slight check at that moment it became fiercer and fiercer, until, at last, on the 6th instant, the Bank directors raised their discount to 6 per cent. for bills having 60 days to run, and 7 per cent. for bills having 90 days to run. This rate of discount is more than equivalent to that of France, for it has always been considered that, in consequence of various differences between the two countries, the Bank of England can safely rest about one-half per cent. below France, even in times of great pressure. When, therefore, the rate of discount is positively equal, we may assume that the pressure upon the Bank of England has been greater, or that the directors see the necessity for a more peremptory course.

It is not to be denied that the conflict in the United States becomes more painfully severe, although we still believe that the great mass of public opinion will sustain the Union and the promotion of American interests against every attempt to make sectional opinion paramount. Some men, however, are using their position to increase the confusion. Amongst these is Mr. BANKS, Speaker of the House of Representatives, who is 'making fun' of the dispute between North and South, and throwing out a hint that the South will never be admitted again to Washington, even by its representatives, except as a "humbler." Surely, this is a gross misrepresentation of American feeling, which ought to lose him his position for ever. Men who talk in this manner ought to be personally responsible. When some of the Northern men are made responsible, they astonish their irresponsible followers by the course of action which they are conscientiously forced to take. Thus the new Governor of Kansas has declared in favour of the local Government and the local law, simply because they are the Government and the law; and he has suppressed the volunteer Government—that is, the irregular Government by mutiny.

Brighton has had its 'demonstration'—a public meeting at the Town-hall to support the political Union of the Danubian Principalities. Some good points were brought out, general and special: the sea-side constituency being addressed by Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, representative of Birmingham; and other speakers, who convinced it that people who are not diplomatists have duties to perform in connexion with European affairs.

There has been a great show of agricultural meetings in agricultural districts, but the style has varied extremely. At Basingstoke, for example, Wiltshire and Hampshire have been represented by the Bishop of GLOUCESTER, the Bishop of SALISBURY, and several other clerical persons, in a meeting to promote adult education amongst the rural labourers—the third anniversary of a society that gives prizes, and is actually successful. At Epsom, through the mouth of Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND, Surrey is demanding a reduction of the malt duty, and he actually canvasses for petitions on the subject next session, with a hint that Mr. DISRAELI would have done it if he had not been prevented by Manchester. At the same time, at Castle Hedingham, Mr. BERESFORD is announcing that the Tories will stand by Church-rates and anti-Maynooth agitation—a course which places Major BERESFORD completely at issue with his Castle Hedingham predecessor, Mr. DISRAELI; while Sir JOHN PAKINGTON appears at another agricultural meeting arguing in favour of agricultural statistics like the stoutest Liberal of them all.

"There is a skeleton in every house," but some families cannot prevent their skeleton from being brought up at the police-court and exposed to public view. It is thus the public has learned the miserable tale in the family of the druggist of Ratcliffe-highway, who figured last week as responsible for the wild conduct of his wife. She had attempted to drown her sorrows, or to frighten him into sense, by taking a gigantic dose of opium. The man has died a victim to intemperance and agitation—died confessing his trespasses, and bequeathing all to his "dear wife." According to the tale, she had nearly become a victim to his example, while the devotion that she showed to him in his illness, and his own affection for her, attest higher qualities. How many a creature is lost with capacities unknown, and is condemned as worthless, simply through the cruel ignorance and indifference of those who look on!

The picturesque history of modern bankruptcy receives new incidents:—Roxson, the Crystal Palace share manufacturer and a zinc smelter, has been captured at Copenhagen; JAMES SADLER'S goods have been brought to the auction mart; and the Royal British Bank has been seized, not only by the Court of Chancery under the Winding-up Acts, but by the Court of Bankruptcy under an Act for extending the remedies of creditors of joint-stock banks. Under this last Act, the Court of Bankruptcy possesses extraordinary powers of inquisition and persecution by aid of the Attorney-General; so that while there is an intervention with a double series of law proceedings, threatening to place the property under a double course of devouring, the public is promised a history and anatomy of the defunct bank under the authoritative hand of a Bankruptcy Commissioner.

SANITARY MATTERS.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING LAST WEEK.—The return of deaths for last week is a not unfavourable indication of the present state of health in London. The total number of deaths registered was 1071, of which 540 were those of males, 531 those of females. The deaths from diarrhoea declined from 72 in the previous week to 64 last week. Scarletina carried off 47 children, nearly the same number as in the previous week. A house is reported, No. 7, George's-cottages, Brixton-hill, in which three cases of "fever" have occurred within the last month; the drainage is stated to be "in very bad condition." In Wellesley-street, Somers-town, also, there is a house, No. 16, where fever and other complaints are common, these being caused, or much aggravated, by the offensive state of the drains; and in the adjoining house, No. 15, a woman died from disease and want combined. Seven persons died last week whose ages were from 90 to 93 years. Last week, the births of 828 boys and 768 girls, in all 1596 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1417.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN.—In the thirteen weeks that ended September 27, 14,066 persons died in London, which is about 1000 more than in the same quarter of 1855. Diseases of the zymotic character were fatal in 4093 cases, against 3661 in the summer quarter of last year; of these 101 were due to croup, 108 to small-pox, 382 to hooping-cough, 393 to measles, 433 to scarlatina, 573 to typhus and common fever, 1610 to diarrhoea (against 1258 from this complaint in the same period of last year), 131 to cholera, chiefly "cholera infantum;" the rest to various other diseases of this class. Very young children were the sufferers from diarrhoea in a very large proportion of the cases. The deaths from measles were most numerous in the south districts, those from scarlatina and typhus in the east. Diarrhoea appears to have prevailed with considerable uniformity over the great divisions of the metropolis, though, if the sub-districts be compared with each other, both with reference to population and deaths, results, in many instances, widely different will be obtained. Phthisis (or consumption) carried off 1794 persons, the number in the corresponding quarter of 1855 having been 1645; bronchitis, 562; pneumonia, 581; being an increase on the previous year from both diseases. Eighty-six women died from diseases of the puerperal state. Eighteen persons died of carbuncle, the numbers in the summer quarters of the last five years ranging only from 15 to 19. Ten persons died from the intemperate use of liquor, besides those who sustained fatal injuries when intoxicated, and those who died from maladies generated by intemperance, which, however, is not shown in the medical certificate; 35 from *delirium tremens*, 6 unfortunate persons from want, and 145 children from want of breastmilk. Poison destroyed 22 lives, the number in five quarters of 1852 to 1856 ranging from 13 to 23. Drowning is recorded in 138 cases, which is considerably more than the average.

LOUIS BLANC'S REPLY TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

THE subjoined letter from M. Louis Blanc, having reference to the sophistical defence of the Cayenne cruelties published in the *Moniteur*, appears in the London daily papers:—

Sir,—The *Times*, but two days since, very properly said,—"When a man is put on his defence there is nothing like a bold denial. There is no argument in the world like your strict contradictory. If anything is declared to be death, assert at once it is life."

So has the French Government done, as if taking the hint, through the official columns of the *Moniteur*. Hitherto the prevailing notion about Cayenne was, that "scorching suns, thick-matted vegetation, growing, withering, and rotting through centuries, with a soil of alluvial mud beneath, made Guiana one of the most fatal regions of the world for men of European birth." All this was a mistake of ours. We are taught by the *Moniteur* that, "in the establishment of Cayenne it was justly considered that the convicts of the bagnes, encumbered in France within confined and unhealthy spots, might be much better treated in a colony." So that it was merely from a feeling of morbid philanthropy that the French Government resolved to favour its conquered enemies with a transportation which, according to the *Times* and to all the world, is "a sentence of death—death, lingering and horrible; death, to which a file of musketeers or the guillotine would be mercy."

Now, to give us a striking illustration of how beautiful the climate of Cayenne really is, the *Moniteur* proceeds to state that, in the course of four years, 52 men only have been carried off out of much less than 300—as those must be deducted from the total number who happened to escape or were discharged. Fifty-two deaths out of some 250 or 260 men is a number that may "surprise by its small amount" such as did not scruple on the 2nd of December to shed blood like water; but we cannot possibly share in this self-exalting astonishment. It is true that we are told of the yellow fever raging in Guiana during the above-mentioned period. Well, it is precisely because yellow fever is an evil incident to the climate of Guiana that that climate is considered a murderous one. But the accuracy of such a statement, terrible as it is, may be questioned when one refers to the following passage of a letter signed by a man unfortunately entitled to say:—

"— Queque ipse miserrima vidi,
Et quorum pars magna fui."

"Five-and-thirty bodies, out of 200 men, have been, in a few months, cast as prey to sharks; for in the Island of St. Joseph the prisoners have no other cemetery than the sea." §

Whereupon, we must not let pass unnoticed how carefully the *Moniteur* hides from the French public a not important fact, namely, that the accusations it endeavours to repel, were brought against the French Government by the very victims of the system denounced, in a letter intended for publicity, and to which as many as thirty-eight prisoners did not hesitate to affix their signatures, utterly regardless—so intolerable were their sufferings!—of the awful consequences likely to follow upon such a step. Why was the *Moniteur* afraid to allude to this circumstance? Why was its answer calculated to make the French public believe that the political exiles at Cayenne found nothing to complain of, as were perfect strangers to the charges levelled, on their behalf, at the French Government? Again, why was the *Moniteur* so slow in meeting these charges with which the world has so long become acquainted through the channel of the English press? And how is it that no French paper has been allowed to whisper a word concerning a question in which so many French families are deeply interested? Is it fair that poor prisoners, living at a distance of about 9000 miles from their native land, under the despotic sway of subaltern agents, when the absence of control and the sense of impunity may goad into all manner of violence, should be deprived of every means to have their cause advocated in their own country by their friends or relatives, and the justice of their complaints discussed in their own language? Is there not something dreadful and quite heartrending in the fact of the French Government raising a loud voice to term every distant complaint a calumny, while at those are terrified into silence who could throw light upon the subject and afford irrefragable proofs?

But let us examine the official answer, as published in the *Moniteur*.

The following were the questions put to the French Government by public opinion:

Is it true—Yes or No—

That without any regard to the laws of civilization in this nineteenth century, men "who are guilty only because they were unsuccessful," have been sent, in consequence of sham trials, or without any trials at all, into a country to which transportation is "a sentence of death?"

* *Times*, October 2.

† *Ibid*, August 28.

§ *Ibid*. Letter from Jassiliez, published by the English press on the 15th of February, 1855, and left unanswered.

|| *Times*, August 28.

That they have been there subjected to forced labours (*travaux forcés*)?

That, like galley slaves, they have been compelled, at least for a certain period, to cut their hair and to wear the letters "T. F." and the very word "galley slave" written in capitals on the upper leather of their shoes?

That, for the first months of their sojourn, they have exclusively lived on *moufou* and *conco*, which was the diet of the blacks before the abolition of slavery?

That they have been made liable to corporal punishments of the most cruel and humiliating kind, being put to the rack on certain occasions; that is, being tied to a stake with thick ropes around their arms, legs, neck, belly, and breast—a punishment lasting, according to the circumstances, from four days at the least, to a fortnight at the most?

That lately, two of them, for some talk at which one of the overseers had taken offence, were dealt with as vile criminals; and, on their being reluctant to submit to an ignominious punishment, had their bodies bruised with blows, their beards torn off, and their arms bound so fast as to cause the blood to gush forth?

That none of those unfortunate men can escape but at the peril of their lives—a consideration that did not prevent many attempts of this kind, one of which proved fatal to a man of highly commendable character?

In fine, that the system of secret transportation to Cayenne has been going on till the present time?

These are the charges. They were stated with the greatest possible precision, and minutely circumstantiated.

Let us now look to the answer. Nothing could be more confused, vague, and contradictory.

1. To present the transportation to Cayenne as an act of mercy is really a barbarous joke.

2. The confirmation of the fact that the political prisoners are compelled to manual labour as well as the galley slaves is to be found in this phrase of the *Moniteur*:—"The obligation of work common to all has in theory been understood in a uniform manner—that is to say, the compulsory right of the authorities went as far as imprisonment." That, in fact, the most submissive among the political prisoners should have been treated with less severity is natural enough; but it must be observed that, under such circumstances, those who are the most harshly treated are precisely the most honourable characters, because strongly impressed with the sense of the injustice done to them, and preserving in the midst of their misfortunes the pride of their former condition, they are unwilling basely to crawl into the favour of their enemies, and to beg for their indulgence by degrading themselves. Nor does it require a very deep insight into the laws of human nature to know that it is the insolent madness of the all-powerful and all-ruling to look upon the self-respect of a morally free man as a crime. In the eye of one whose power is beyond control not to kneel when he passes amounts to rebellion.

3. The *Moniteur*, in its answer, touches on none of the particular points which go so far to prove that the condition of the political prisoners is not at all unlike that of the galley-slaves. "The labour of the *forçats* is strictly compulsory," so is the labour of the political prisoners, according to the above-mentioned avowal of the *Moniteur* itself. "It is always gratuitous," so was the labour of the political prisoners at the time we received the first letter published by the English press, as formally stated in the following lines:—"At present the political prisoners may be said to be actually starving; and while their tormentors benefit by their tilling, embanking, building, they are left without remuneration, almost without food." That there is some difference between the labour of the galley-slaves and that of the political prisoners, as to the productive value, is easily conceivable. Men like journalists, physicians, barristers, or merchants, can hardly be expected to work manually with much success, even when ill-treated in case of failure.

4. This phrase of the Governor of Guiana—"From the summit of Royal Island we can see with the naked eye all that is going on in Devil's Island," shows how difficult it must be to escape from a place of such a description. But, difficult as it is, the attempt is still more dangerous. If the prisoner do not succeed in baffling the vigilance of the overseers, he incurs a most severe penalty. If he succeed, he has to put to sea at night in whatever boat he may have secured, without knowing whither he goes, without even knowing whether he will be lucky enough to find land. . . . The death of the unfortunate Mayor of Béziers is a tragical comment upon the dangers with which such undertakings are always attended. It is much to be regretted that the *Moniteur* should not have deemed it worth while to reconcile what it says of the mild treatment the prisoners enjoy with their desperate anxiety to fly from it at any cost.

5. One of the questions put to the French Government was this:—"Is it true that not long ago a workman in Paris disappeared on a sudden, and so mysteriously that his family was quite unaware of what had become of him? Is it true that, upon inquiries, it was found the man had been sent to Cayenne?" On this point we have still to wait for an answer.

Thus, of the accusations put forward in the letter of the thirty-eight, not a single one can be considered to have really been met by the *Moniteur*.

With respect to what took place on board the *Erygon* it is no business of mine to refute the statements of the official organ of the French Government, as I neither knew nor said anything about it.

As regards the fact of the political prisoners living side by side with ordinary criminals, the *Moniteur* states that there is in Guiana a whole class of common felons who had nothing to do with politics; these were "occasionally located on one and the same island with the political prisoners, but never beneath one and the same roof." This assertion may be true, but it is quite irrelevant and uncalled for. It has never been asserted that the class of those who are merely common convicts and the other class are herded together in Guiana. The question is whether in the political class itself men of honour do not live side by side with liberated galley-slaves, whom, in the dark confusion of the *coup d'état*, it was thought fit by the military commissions to condemn, on a pretence of plots or risings, so as to degrade the rest by their contact. If we are to believe the *Moniteur*, such would be the case, for it says, "Even among these—the political prisoners favoured with the indulgence of the Emperor—there were many whose antecedents, in a criminal point of view, were deplorable. Their descriptions swarm with statements that would have justified the classification of them either with old offenders previously discharged, or with convicts."

The *Moniteur* is glad to call to mind that among those deported to Cayenne many have been condemned by the Republic itself. In the first place, by the word "many" the *Moniteur* means some nineteen or twenty. Secondly, the Republic never sent any political prisoner to Cayenne. The selection of Cayenne as a political penitentiary belongs entirely and exclusively to the Imperial régime. Such among the insurgents of June as were condemned by the Republican Government were sent to Algeria. As to the motives for which they were removed from Algeria to Cayenne by the present Government, these motives and the proceedings used on the occasion, will be fully appreciated by the English public, if it happen to have read a letter published of late in several papers, which runs thus:—"One of the thirty-eight prisoners signing the document addressed to M. Louis Blanc is personally known to me—viz., M. Lafont. M. Lafont, strange to say, up to the present moment, is ignorant of his crime, has no knowledge of his accusers, and is equally unacquainted with his judges. The regular court of justice that condemned him altogether forgot so trifling a matter as instituting any legal procedure against him, and, moreover, did not give himself the unnecessary trouble of communicating to him his sentence. . . . After lying for some time in the casemates of Port d'Ivry, he was despatched on board the *Christophe Colomb*, and disembarked as a convict at Algiers, the 22nd of March, 1852. . . . First, he had to live in the camp of Domeva, then he was sent, with many of his fellow-sufferers, under military escort, to the Bourdika, a French colony notorious for its unhealthiness. Lafont, aware of the fate that awaited him, stepped out of the ranks, and, in a loud voice, cried, 'You are sending us to death.' For this . . . he was tried at Algiers—this time in public court—and sentenced to one month of *carcere duro*; but when he had finished his time, another secret tribunal condemned him—for what reason never transpired—to transportation to Cayenne. He suddenly disappeared. . . . Only by his signature to the letter of the thirty-eight have we heard that Lafont is still among the living."

I will go no further. Let public opinion decide. I remain, sir, your obedient servant,
LOUIS BLANC.

AMERICA.

It is anticipated that the Presidential election in Pennsylvania, to take place during the present month, will terminate in the success of Fremont. The slave states, however, in all probability, will vote for Buchanan: the chances for Fillmore seem to be doubtful. In the course of this October, also, the election for the Governor of New York State is to take place.

"The new Governor of Kansas," says an American correspondent of the *Times*, "has entered upon the duties of his office with an address full of peaceful professions and exhortations to the settlers to cease strife, to lay down the sword, and resume the plough. But it recognizes the Missouri Legislature, and points to that as the only means of relief. When it is remembered that one of the qualifications for an elector to vote upon the choice of members of this Legislature is an oath to support the Kansas Nebraska Bill, the Fugitive Slave Law, and the acts of the territory, it is plain that the Free State men have little to hope for. He also issued a proclamation disbanding the volunteer militia, which has attempted to enforce the territorial laws under the directions of his predecessor, enjoining all the Free State men to disband at once or quit the territory, and commanding all male citizens between eighteen and forty-five to organize at once into a militia, and to hold themselves in readiness to be summoned into the service of the United States. Robinson and the other state prisoners have been released on bail, and thus for the moment peace is restored in Kansas."

Mr. Emerson, the celebrated essayist, has made a speech at Cambridge (U. S.) on the Kansas question,

reprobating the atrocities of the border ruffians, and the tyranny of the pro-slavery party. He observed:—"In this country, for the last few years, the Government has been the chief obstruction to the common weal. Who doubts that Kansas would have been very well settled if the United States had let it alone? The Government armed and led the ruffians against the poor farmers. I do not know any story so gloomy as the politics of this country for the last twenty years, centralizing, ever more manifestly round one spring, and that a vast crime, and ever more plainly, until it is notorious that all promotion, power, and policy are dictated from one source—illustrating the fatal effects of a false position to demoralize legislation, and put the best people always at a disadvantage; one crime always present, always to be vanished over, to find fine names for, and we free statesmen, as accomplices to the guilt, ever in the power of the grand offender. Language has lost its meaning in the universal cant. Representative government is really misrepresentative; Union is a conspiracy against the northern states, which the northern states are to have the privilege of paying for; the adding of Cuba and Central America to the slave maps is enlarging the area of freedom. Manifest destiny, democracy, freedom, fine names for an ugly thing. They call it otto of rose and lavender—I call it bilge water. It is called chivalry and freedom—I call it the taking of all the earnings of a poor man, and the earnings of his little girl and boy, and the earnings of all that come from him, his children's children for ever. But this is union, and this is democracy; and our poor people, led by the nose by these fine words, dance and sing, ring bells, and fire cannon, with every new link of the chain which is forged for their limbs by the plotters in the Capitol. What are the results of law and union? There is no union. Can any citizen of Massachusetts travel in honour through Kentucky and Alabama and speak his mind? Or can any citizen of the southern country, who happens to think kidnapping a bad thing, say so?" The speech concluded thus:—"Fellow citizens, in these times, full of the fate of the Republic, I think the towns should hold town meetings, and resolve themselves into committees of safety, go into permanent sessions, adjourning from week to week, from month to month. I wish we could send the Sergeant-at-Arms to send every American who is about to leave the country. Stop home every one who is abroad, lest he should find no country to return to. Come home and stay at home, while there is a country to save. When it is lost, it will be time enough then for any who are luckless enough to remain alive, to gather up their clothes and depart to some land where freedom exists."

Mr. William T. Coleman, President of the San Francisco Vigilance Committee, has been arrested in New York at the suit of James R. Maloney, one of the exiled, and has been held to bail in the sum of 50,000 dollars.

The danger from yellow fever is considered over in New York. The suspected vessels have been allowed to come up to quarantine anchorage from the south-west spit.

Mr. George Peabody has declined the public dinners tendered to him by New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and other cities, which desired to do honour to his efforts to promote international good feeling between Great Britain and the United States.

Mr. Corwine, the commissioner sent to Panama to report upon the massacre of the California passengers, concludes his report with a recommendation that possession be taken of the Isthmus. He asserts that the present Government is responsible for the outrage, and ought to pay a fine of 500,000 dollars; and that it is either unable or unwilling to protect passengers. The Government of Panama, on the other hand, imputes a bad animus to Mr. Ward, the American consul; asserts that many of the Californian passengers are very violent; admits its own weakness, owing to the constant refusal of foreign residents to pay their taxes; states that there has been an increase of force since the riot; and promises to make just reparation for any proved injury.

Money is in demand at New York, but sufficiently in abundance for sound commercial purposes. Stocks are depressed, the recent rise having been succeeded by a decline.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

THE last mail from India brings scarcely any news of importance. Oude is quiet, and the Santahls are perfectly tranquil, being in a great measure dispirited by a famine from which they are suffering, as one of the consequences of last year's risings. There have been some disturbances at Peshawar, where a couple of troops were attacked, while patrolling, by some fellows in ambush, who wounded them so severely that one has since died.—Mr. Cope, of Lahore, has been condemned by the authorities of the Punjab, and by the Supreme Government (though without a formal trial) for concealing, with felonious intent, a box of jewels intended for the Paris Exhibition.—The Bank of Bengal has further reduced its rates of discount and interest one per cent. all round; and bullion and specie are abundant.

CHINA.

The rebels continue to advance. They have taken Tan-yang, and are thus brought into proximity with

Soo-chow, the capital of the province, and the outlet of commerce to Shanghai. Heang-yung has retired to Wooseith, which is only thirty miles from Soo-chow. In the western part of Kiang-soo, the cities of Keu-yung and Leihshwuy are occupied by the insurgents, who have also taken E-hing, and are now spreading themselves over the districts of Tac-hoo and Tung-ting-san, recently the resort of European tourists.

A horrible tragedy has taken place on board the Dutch ship *Banco*, bound, with coolies, for Havannah. "This vessel, of 700 tons, with a live freight of 350 to 370," says the *China Mail*, "put back to Macao with her water-casks leaking, and came to anchor in the outer roads, the coolies not being permitted to land lest they should make their escape. For three weeks, what-over discontent may have prevailed, no fears of an outbreak would seem to have been entertained; but on Sunday (August 3rd) a Chinese doctor on board warned the captain that mischief was brewing. In preparation for such a contingency as a rising of the coolies, the small arms were placed on the poop, and two guns were loaded with grape and pointed forward. About nine at night, the disturbance commenced, and the crew took refuge on the poop. The captain first fired a shot or two over head: but as that had no effect, and the coolies advanced to the assault, armed with belaying pins, bricks torn from the cooking places, &c., a volley of small arms and the discharge of the big guns followed. This drove the coolies below, whence flames speedily burst through the after-hatch, and shortly the vessel was in a blaze fore and aft. The mainmast soon fell—then the fore and mizen, and about midnight the magazine exploded. Of the Europeans, the captain, gunner, and steward are missing, together with 220 to 230 of the coolies, those who were saved having been picked up by the steamer *Queen*, Captain Endicott's cutter, a launch, and a fast-boat. One sailor, supposed to have been drowned, was found on board a China boat by the *Queen* on her passage over to Hong-Kong."

A French priest is supposed to have been cruelly murdered in the far west of Kwang-si. The district of Swaton has been flooded; the people are living on the tops of their houses, and several have been drowned.

JAPAN.

The Emperor of Japan has decided that two ports of the empire, those of Nangasaki and Hakodadi, shall be open to the vessels of all nations, for the purposes of repairing, taking in provisions, establishing depôts of coal, &c. The other ports of the empire are to be accessible to vessels in distress which may take refuge in them, but which will have to put to sea the moment the danger is over. No foreigner is to be allowed to penetrate into the interior of the country without a special permission from the Chief of the State. A decision has not yet been come to with regard to the right of trading with Japan, which privilege is still reserved exclusively for China and Holland.

MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA.

(From the Brighton papers.)

A LARGE and influential public meeting—a success in every respect—was held on Monday evening at the Town Hall to promote the union of the above Danubian Principalities. It was presided over by his Worship the Mayor, and among those present were Montague Scott, Esq., J. G. Dodson, Esq., W. Scholefield, Esq., M.P. for Birmingham, I. G. Bass, Esq., Dr. Ruge, M. D. Brastiano (late member of the Government of Wallachia), Horace St. John, Esq.,—Croce, Esq., and several of our leading residents. Letters, expressing regret at inability to attend the meeting, but full of sympathy with the object, were received from Lord Brougham, and Messrs. Roebuck, Gladstone, Otway, Foster, &c.

The Chairman having stated the object of the meeting, and his full concurrence in it, called upon

Mr. Scott, who gave a history of the diplomatic proceedings connected with the Danubian Principalities. At the Treaty of Paris, he said, Count Walewski and Lord Clarendon advocated, as he had stated, the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, by the means of which a wall of steel would be created between Russia and Turkey—five millions of a brave race would be created into a nation, owning neither the despotism of Austria nor Russia, but be a free people. (Cheers.) Count Buol opposed the proposition, not by proposing an immediate negative, but by a much more diplomatic course; he stated it would not be well to effect such a union unless it was the wish of the majority of the inhabitants, which proposition was very plausible, and it was agreed to. They then consulted with the Minister of the Sublime Porte; and the manner in which they proceeded to obtain the wishes of the inhabitants, was to abolish the freedom of the press (laughter), and prohibit the Liberal party, who had been exiled in England, from returning. (Cheers.) It was, therefore, utterly impossible that the feelings of the country could be ascertained; but they were informed by men, who knew their countrymen, that it was their darling wish that they should throw off the yoke of Austria and Russia, and be created a free government under an hereditary monarch. (Loud cheers.) He then moved—

"That this meeting is in favour of the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, in order to make a free and powerful nation of the Roumans, as the best barrier against Austria and Russia; and that the meeting ex-

presses its earnest hope that the Government of England will, in conjunction with France, insist upon the fulfilment of the resolutions of the Paris Conference, in adopting the views, and satisfying the just expectations, of the Rouman people as to their internal government."

Mr. Dodson, in seconding the resolution, said the diplomatic part of it had been so tersely and correctly given, that nothing was left on that head; and he then, in a very interesting address, proceeded to give his personal experience of the people in whose behalf they were interesting themselves. (Applause.)

Mr. Scholefield, M.P., spoke to the motion, and showed that neither Austria, Russia, nor Turkey had a right to exercise sovereignty over the Danubian Principalities, though the latter power had a suzerainty—a tribute of moderate amount for her services, should they (the Principalities) be attacked by a stronger or third party; and to establish this fact the hon. gentleman quoted the first, second, and fifth clauses of a treaty made in the sixteenth century which had never been repealed. He concluded by calling upon the meeting to exert themselves now, while the subject was under the consideration of Government, as such a moment would not, perhaps, arrive again. (Loud cheers.)

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. Councillor Cox then moved that a petition, founded on the above resolution, be presented to the Government by the Mayor in behalf of the meeting.

Dr. Ruge seconded; and expressed a hope that the people of England would not allow Moldavia and Wallachia to be lost as Poland, Hungary, and Italy had been. (Cheers.)

Mr. Horace St. John supported the motion. After pointing out that the Principalities were naturally and historically one, and had only been divided by violence and intrigue, that no just claims of the Ottoman Porte would be interfered with by their union, and that Austria, which had pursued a policy of expectancy, deceit, and selfishness, had been permitted to gain in the Valley of the Danube immense advantages over Russia, her rival in aggression, he said that the English nation had yet to assume the government of its foreign affairs. "You have nothing to do with the foreign policy of your own Government," said Mr. St. John, "except to suffer its results, whatever these results may be. You leave your Ministers to decide on plans of peace and war; they despise your opinions, and connive at the suppression of liberalism in all quarters of the ancient world; and while this system continues, you, who affect to have constitutional sympathies, who abhor tyranny, who applaud the efforts of the oppressed, and repeat their prayers for liberty,—you may remain happy and free yourselves, but you will be witnesses of the despair and misery of the other nations of Europe, and perhaps degraded by the consciousness of your complicity in that great collusion which makes them what they are." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Matthews having addressed the meeting, three cheers were given for Moldavia and Wallachia, the Mayor was thanked for his attendance, and the proceedings terminated.

IRELAND.

THE HARVEST IN THE WEST.—The recent severe rains have done great damage to the corn and other crops in those parts of the country where they are always late. The accounts from Erris are of a very afflicting character.

THE TIPPERARY BANK.—A meeting of the creditors of the Tipperary Bank took place at Tipperary on Thursday week. "From the statement of Mr. Gibson, the solicitor, who represented the shareholders at that meeting, it substantially appeared," says the *Freeman*, "that about 350,000*l.* represented the probable settled amount of liabilities, and that to pay a dividend of 2s. on this, and defray the costs of the affair, would absorb all the assets of the bank, making the latter pretty much what we stated on the 10th of March last, 35,000*l.* He estimated that the probable amount to be obtained by making a compromise will be about 6s. in the pound more, or 105,000*l.*, a larger sum than we thought possible. He appeared to consider that the English shareholders, from whom he stated, and we believe, with good foundation, a sum of 40,000*l.* could have been obtained by a compromise, have, for all practical purposes, escaped from further liability. It further appeared that one hundred actions have been brought, of which twenty-eight are nearly ripe; and it is expected that the costs in these twenty-eight alone will be 4500*l.*—equal to the whole debts for which they have been brought. It was eventually agreed upon that the chairman, the Very Rev. Dr. Howley, and Major Massey, should be appointed, in conjunction with one or more representatives from the other branches, to form a committee to confer with the official manager, and those interested for the shareholders, to ascertain if a compromise is possible, and report to the general body."—A lithographed circular has been addressed to the English shareholders by the official manager, in the course of which some advice is offered by Mr. McDouall with respect to the policy of those parties submitting to a compromise, and thus obtaining a complete release from all future liabilities.—The furniture of James Sadler has been sold in the presence of the sub-sheriff of the county. It realized a large sum for the benefit of the creditors of the Tipperary Bank.

BALLINASLOE SHEEP FAIR.—The great October fair of Ballinasloe has been very well attended, the number of sheep being unusually large. The demand was brisk, but prices did not rule as high as was expected. A large number of animals changed hands on the subsequent days.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A NOBLEMAN.—Baron de Robeck has been missing for several days, and the most vigilant investigations have not yet succeeded in discovering him or his body. There is little doubt that he has been drowned. It appears probable that he was walking on the banks of the Liffey, towards dusk, under Leixlip Castle, that the banks, which were injured by the late floods, gave way under him, and that he was swept away by the current, being in feeble health at the time, and unable to save himself.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS' COURT STATISTICS.—The number of dividends declared by the Dublin Insolvent Court during the year 1855 was forty-eight, and the amount as follows:—Gross sum received, 18,886*l.*; costs, deductions, and payments, 2674*l.*; amount divided, 16,212*l.* There were three of 20s. in the pound, one of 17s. 1d., one of 18s. 6d., seven between 10s. and 15s., the remainder below 10s.

INCREASED VALUE OF LAND.—A letter from Tralee mentions that at the close of last week a portion of the property of the late Mr. Spotswood, situated in the barony of Iveragh, in the county of Kerry, which in 1851 was sold to a Mr. Lindsey, of Cork, for 1200*l.* was resold in Killarney, by Mr. Justin McCarthy, auctioneer, for 3700*l.*, the purchaser being the Rev. John Chute, son of Mr. Arthur Chute. The cause of the resale was a dispute whether Mr. Lindsey purchased originally for himself or on trust.—*Times*.

EPISCOPAL LIBERALITY.—The Protestant Bishop of Limerick (the Right Rev. Dr. Griffin) has contributed 5*l.* towards the bazaar of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Convent, in the city of Limerick. The Earl of Carlisle is also a contributor to the amount of 2*l.*—*Ibid.*

THE CRIMEAN BANQUET.—The Lord Lieutenant has appointed Wednesday, the 22nd inst., for the banquet to the Crimean soldiers stationed in Ireland.

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.—A meeting of the senate of the Queen's University was held in Dublin Castle, on Tuesday, for conferring degrees and presenting prizes and medals to the successful competitors from the three Colleges of Cork, Belfast, and Galway, forming the University. A chair of State was placed for the Lord-Lieutenant, who honoured the meeting with his presence, and who distributed the medals and money prizes with his own hands.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE state of affairs at Paris is becoming critical. Several persons—amounting, according to some, to one hundred—were arrested on the night of Thursday week in the Rue Mouffetard and in other streets of the twelfth arrondissement. These individuals were charged with having posted up several placards threatening certain persons with death, demanding "cheap bread or blood," recommending summary measures against the owners of house property, and menacing the Emperor. The enormous height to which house-rent has run up, in consequence of the large number of houses which have been demolished in making the new improvements, is supposed to be one of the causes of this disturbance. The poorer classes are suffering severely from want of accommodation at prices which they are capable of paying, and it is stated that many have been actually thrown upon the streets. Add to this that bread is excessively dear, and the distress of the poorer classes can be imagined. One of the placards torn down by the police contained the words—"Tou ton propriétaire; je tuerai le tien!—Mort aux propriétaires!" The Government is taking precautions. For several nights, patrols have been perambulating the faubourgs, in order that they may crush at once any attempt at an outbreak. Monetary troubles and distress among the working classes have generally brought the lurking discontent of the French people with respect to any despotic Government to a head; and both these dangers are now gnawing at the foundations of the Imperial throne.

The commercial embarrassment from which France is now suffering has caused some ominous grumbling even among the supporters of the Empire; and it is not uncommon to hear people contrasting the bulletins of brilliant victories which the First Napoleon would send home after long absence from Paris, with the accounts of ball-fights now transmitted from Bayonne, and set forth in the admiring columns of the *Moniteur*. The editors of the Paris papers have been requested by the authorities to publish nothing on the financial crisis, and to be equally discreet about the Neapolitan question. The money-changers have been forbidden to expose in their shop windows the premium they offer on silver.

Meanwhile, the Emperor (like Mr. Micawber when on the brink of ruin) is planning new architectural works and adornments. He has ordered that important erections shall be immediately commenced for enlarging the Villa Eugénie at Biarritz. These additions will comprise an elegant pavilion, barracks for troops, accommodation for clerks, and stabling.

Marshal Francisco Serrano, the new Spanish Amba-

under who replaces Senor Olozaga, has been officially received by the Emperor.

Prince Napoleon has returned to the Palais Royal from his maritime excursion in the North Sea.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* denies the truth of the account recently published in the *Daily News*, and quoted by us last week, of the reception given by the French people to the bull-fights in the south.

Some further victories over the Arabs have been gained by the French in Algeria.

Prince Napoleon has left Hamburg on his homeward voyage to France.

The Council General of the Bank of France has resolved not to discount bills of longer date than sixty days instead of ninety as heretofore.

Louis Napoleon is said to entertain a design of making a military and fortified port at St. Jean de Luz, near Bayonne. This project has been entertained since the time of Louis XIV. Its execution would give France the command of the whole Cantabrian coast, and enable her to dominate the whole of the Basque provinces of Spain, which are known to be not very well affected to the monarchy with which they are now united, and which have recently given indications of a friendly feeling towards France.

The *Moniteur* publishes a report of the Minister of Finance, relative to the Budget of 1856. The most remarkable points advanced by the Minister are the following:—"Not only has the amount of revenue of 1854 been attained and passed—not only is the extraordinary level of 1855 reached—but the first months of the present year, compared with the corresponding months of the last year, show a considerable increase. This increase, for the first six months alone, is 63,000,000 as against 1854, and 26,000,000 as against 1855. Much has been said of the exportation of bullion. A succession of bad harvests, the purchase of silk from foreign sources, and other less legitimate causes, have influenced, no doubt, the export of French coin. Silver especially has become the object of a trade which disturbs the public mind. This trade consists in selecting the finest coins, and obtaining for them their surplus value. This unfair choice of coin, which tends to destroy the general equilibrium, was by ancient law considered as a high misdemeanor, and was punished by severe penalties. Modern legislation cannot be powerless against such an abuse, which has nothing in common with the undisputed principle of commercial liberty. The Government of your Majesty is justly concerned about this matter. The two first loans have been entirely paid up, and the terms of the last, which will suffice to liquidate all the expenses of the war, are fulfilled with exactitude. The public revenue is augmenting in a hitherto unparalleled proportion. The taxes are paid with the most exact punctuality, and even often in advance. Money flows into the public Treasury. The payment of the last six monthly payments of the rente has left us a reserve of 110,000,000fr. It must be evident to every sensible man that these facts are the indices of a situation of things which is fundamentally good." The reader will, of course, bear in mind that this is the official account.

On the Emperor appearing a few nights ago at the Opera—the first time he has been seen in public since his return to Paris—he was but coldly received.

AUSTRIA.

Baron Hübner arrived at Vienna from Naples on the 2nd inst., and on the following morning had an interview with Count Buol. Naples persists in its refusal to make any concessions.

Austria intends to continue her occupation of Moldavia during the whole of the ensuing winter.

A telegraphic despatch sent from Vienna to Paris is said to have suspended the execution of the resolutions with respect to Naples previously come to by the allied Governments of France and England.

The *Nord*, of Brussels, publishes in prominent type, and calls particular attention to, an article which has appeared in the *Journal de Frankfort* as a communication from Vienna. The object of this article is to defend "the sacred right" of every monarch, or governor of a state, to manage his internal affairs as he thinks fittest, without the least interference from other powers, especially when accompanied by threats. This flourish in defence of "the right divine of kings to govern wrong" is made of course in connexion with the present policy of France and England with reference to Naples. The interference of Austria in 1820 is then justified on the grounds that it was asked for by the legitimate sovereign, and that the interests of the Emperor were compromised by the revolutionary government then installed in the capital of the Two Sicilies. But, continues the writer, though England had no sympathy with that revolution, she refused, through Lord Castlereagh, to interfere, pleading the wise doctrine of non-intervention. The English Government, in 1823, in connexion with the political state of Spain, explained that the only ground of intervention which it recognized was when one state endeavoured first to propagate its principles, and then to establish its domination, by force of arms, as in the case of France after the revolution at the close of last century. The writer of the article proceeds to inquire:—"Does the King of the Two Sicilies, it might be asked, seek to tamper with the British troops, or to undermine

the political institutions of England? or does he endeavour in the slightest degree to spread his principles and extend his domination by force of arms? And if he does nothing of all this, and if in 1823 Great Britain so strongly disapproved of intervention in the internal affairs of Spain, how can she in 1856 justify an intervention in the internal affairs of the kingdom of Naples?" The upshot of the argument is, that we may always interfere in the interest of monarchs, but never in the interest of the people.

A wild and romantic story, similar to the narrative related of Caspar Hauser, is told in the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, which states that a girl was found in November, 1853, wandering about near the village of Weiskirchen, in the Banat, almost in a savage state, and unable to speak intelligibly, though full grown. Having since then been carefully educated, she related to her tutor (who has published the alleged facts in a pamphlet) that she was forcibly carried away from her mother before she was five years old; that she was shut up in a large house with three towers, like a castle, and probably situated somewhere in Hungary; that afterwards, for fifteen or sixteen years, she lived in a place underground in the midst of a forest, where she was tended by an old woman named Bertha; and that a man called Eleazer used to bring food and clothes for both of them. About seven years after her arrival there, a little baby, two or three months old, named Adolf, was brought to the subterranean dwelling; and both he and she were kindly treated, though they were never instructed. In October, 1853, Bertha took the girl out of the cavern, put her in a carriage drawn by two horses, and conveyed her to the place where she was abandoned. The Austrian Government has directed that inquiries be made by the local authorities.—There is something, we conceive, rather suspicious in the extreme particularity with respect to names and dates in this narrative. Under such circumstances, the girl's recollections would surely be more obscure and disjointed.

"To get up the requisite amount of loyal demonstration for the Emperor of Austria's visit to his Lombard dominions," says the *Daily News*, "a long letter of instructions has been addressed by M. Anelli, delegate governor of the province of Como, to his subordinates, the district commissaries, desiring them to exert all their influence to induce the municipalities and communal deputies to make a great show of zeal, and prepare an enthusiastic welcome for Francis Joseph and his consort, who are expected about the end of November or the beginning of December." The Heaven-sent Emperors cannot calculate upon spontaneous demonstrations, except on such as are against them.

The Roman Catholic priest of a Moravian village refused for several days to bury in consecrated ground the body of an Austrian officer who had been shot in a duel by a Prussian officer whom he had affronted. At length, the corpse was thrust into a grave which had been dug for another person, having previously been 'blessed' by a military chaplain. The cause of the duel was singularly trivial. The Prussian officer had lighted his cigar by that of the Austrian. Returning the other's cigar, he burnt the fingers of its owner, who denounced the Prussian as "clumsy." A challenge ensued; the parties crossed the frontiers into Silesia; and the Austrian was killed at the first shot.

"In addition to the instructions which M. de Martini has taken to Naples," says the *Gazette de Cologne*, "the cabinet of Vienna has addressed a circular note to its representatives at Paris and London, in which Austria protests against all armed demonstration, and demands energetically that the Neapolitan question, raised already at the Paris Congress, be brought before the new congress which is shortly to assemble. No reply has yet been made to this note, which was received at the same time with that from Russia."

PRUSSIA.

The Archduke Albert has met with an accident at the camp at Biranberg. His carriage upset, and he received some slight contusions.

It is stated that the marriage of Prince Frederick William of Prussia with the Princess Royal of England will take place on the 18th of October, 1857, the anniversary of the birthday of the prince.

DENMARK.

The Ministerial crisis is at an end. The Cabinet is reconstituted as follows:—M. Andrea, President of the Council and Foreign Secretary; M. Fenger, Finance Department; M. Scheele, Minister for the German duchies, and the other members of the late Cabinet, with the exception of M. Bang, retain their portfolios.

RUSSIA.

General Count de Leiningen died at Cracow on the 2nd inst.

Thirty persons were killed at the people's banquet given by the Emperor at Moscow on Saturday, the 20th ult. There was a great rush about nine o'clock, and not only have the lives of thirty been destroyed, but many more have been seriously injured. The loyal Russians endeavour to hush the matter up as much as possible. During the whole of the day, the rain poured down pitilessly, and the poor feasters were drenched to the skin, and steamed like cart-horses. Mr. Russell, the *Times* correspondent, notes that they were very quiet

during the whole of the day, as a Russian crowd always is, and that the whole thing was void of hilarity. The Emperor and his staff took a very short promenade through the crowd. "The materials of the feast were 2496 pounds of ham, 936 pounds of sausages, 3120 roasted sheep, 12,480 roast fowls, 49,920 pâtés, 50,000 almond pâtés, 24,960 Russian cheesecakes, 145,088 small loaves of white bread, 312 pounds of butter, 1252 vedros of wine, 3120 vedros of beer, 600 pounds of Russian spiced cake, and 800 tchetverts of fruit. (A poed is about 36lb. English.) The liquids were distributed by means of ten fountains, each placed in one of the avenues of the tables in a small amphitheatre half way from the imperial kiosk. The eight galleries or stands erected for the spectators were 220 feet each in length, and the total length of the tables spread for the guests was exactly seven miles English (10½ versts Russian)."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Morning Post* relates that the Russian authorities are in the habit of opening letters addressed to Englishmen, and even of intercepting them. He has himself suffered from this. The telegraph clerks at St. Petersburg, also, objected to sending a telegraphic message from him to the journal he represented, because it contained an allusion to the accidents at the people's banquet. He therefore struck out that part.

Remarking on the harsh exclusion of the merchants from the banquet they had themselves given to the soldiers, Mr. Russell says:—"The time is fast coming when the merchant guilds cannot be any longer treated with such indifference and insult. If all the reports one hears be true, the Czar is about to become a merchant himself, and to be a steam company proprietor. There is a talk of a gigantic scheme being afoot, by which Russia is to liberate herself from the influence of foreign companies, and to conduct her own export and passenger trade; not only her own, indeed, but that of foreign countries. This is the formation of a company to purchase and keep afloat a fleet of no less than three hundred first-class steamers, which are to carry on the trade in the north with Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Hull, and London; and in the south with the shores of the Black Sea, Varna, Constantinople, Athens, Smyrna, the Greek islands, Alexandria, Naples, Leghorn, Genoa, Marseilles, &c. The Czar is said to have subscribed 2,000,000 roubles to the company, and it is affirmed that agents have been already despatched to England and America to contract for and purchase steamers."

The English Ambassador and Lady Granville's state ball on the night of Tuesday, the 23rd ult., was very brilliant and very successful. The Emperor and Empress, the Grand Dukes Constantine and Michael, the Grand Duchesses Constantine and Marie, honoured the party by their presence, and all the Foreign Ambassadors and Ministers, together with their suites, as well as the principal Russian nobility, and every person of note in Moscow, attended. The dancing, which was at first formal, appears ultimately to have become tumultuous, and a tall Englishman, in the full vigour and passion of his waltzing, absolutely ran into the Emperor, and considerably staggered his equilibrium. Alexander, with great politeness, relieved the unlucky gentleman from his embarrassment by apologising to him, and observing "that he (the Czar) really could not get out of the way, the crowd was so great."

The ball given by M. de Morny, the French Ambassador, took place on Sunday, September 28. The Emperor, the Empress, and the Imperial family, were present, and some Mingrelins, including the Princess or Queen Dadian, and the young king, all habited in their strange native costumes, were among the guests. The child monarch at one time got into a great rage about something.

SPAIN.

The editors of the journals who were recently arrested have been set at liberty. The municipal and provincial elections will take place in November.

The garrison of Madrid has been reviewed and manoeuvred in the presence of the queen and king.

The Government has determined on sending into the Mediterranean a squadron of steamers and sailing ships sufficiently strong to protect Spanish possessions in that sea in any eventualities that may arise out of the existing state of things at Naples.

It is said that the Government intends to appoint all the Archbishops, and six of the most distinguished Bishops, Senators of the kingdom. Report, also, states that the Marquis del Duero will be nominated President, and Señor Martinez de la Rosa Vice-President, of the Council of State.

The scarcity of food continues. Important measures are to be taken in order to stop smuggling.

In spite of all the conjectures formed by the newspapers with regard to the time at which the elections for the Cortes will take place, nothing has as yet been decided, and it is probable that the elections will not begin before 1857.

A very remarkable article appeared in the *Nacion* (Madrid paper) of the 28th ult., respecting a pamphlet which is sold and distributed in that city and in the provinces, on the advantages to be derived from the 'fiançailles' of the Princess of Asturias and the Imperial Prince of France. It is hardly necessary to say that the *Progresista* journal and party are indignant, not only

at the idea itself, but at the manner in which it is presented. The journal *L'Iberia*, another liberal paper, has also an excellent article on the Imperial Prince being named *Senor de Biscay*, while the Sovereign herself, though Queen of Spain, is only *Senora*; and it dwells very strongly on a report, much spread and considerably believed, that there is a movement among some of the leading men in the Basque Provinces to place their *fueros* under the protection of France. These two subjects have created much sensation at Madrid.—*Times Paris Correspondent*.

The Emperor Napoleon (according to the Madrid correspondent of the *Independence Belge*) has addressed an autograph letter of eight pages, full of very serious advice, to Queen Isabella. After praising many acts of the present cabinet, the Emperor invites the Queen to abandon the idea of any further ministerial modification; to maintain the constitutional régime which alone, in his opinion, is suitable for the Peninsula; to raise the state of siege as promptly as possible, and to assemble without much further delay the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The Emperor insists upon the necessity of granting the fullest liberty of discussion to the two chambers, and of avoiding, by all means, a return to the arbitrary and despotic régime which distinguished the Sarratorius ministry. He also alludes to the dangerous influence of certain members of the clergy. The same correspondent writes on a subsequent day:—"Her Majesty has written to the Emperor of the French, expressing her profound gratitude. She states that she will take his counsels into her best consideration, and that she particularly appreciates the clear, precise, and truly paternal manner in which his suggestions are conveyed." These statements must, of course, be received with caution.

The *Gazette* publishes a Royal decree suppressing the commission appointed to prepare the codes by a decree of the 11th of September, 1854, and replacing it by another, consisting of seven members and a secretary, who are ordered to draw up, without delay, the long-expected laws on judiciary organization and criminal procedure, and to reform the penal and civil codes now in vigour.

PORTUGAL.

The failure in the supply of grapes excites the utmost consternation among the vine cultivators, many of whom will be ruined by the disease which has destroyed the means of their subsistence. Hardly one thousand pipes of sound wine can be produced in the wine districts, and prices have of course gone up considerably.

The vessels that were scuttled in the river Douro, by order of the Board of Health, are still in the same position, and no order has been received to attempt to raise them. Two of them are past recovery.

TURKEY.

Omar Pacha, who has been pensioned by the Government and excluded from the suite of the Sultan, has retired from Constantinople, and taken up his residence in a village.

Some curious particulars of an expedition to Jerusalem are contained in a letter from that city published in the French religious journal, the *Univers*, where we read:—"The caravan of French and Hungarian pilgrims spoken of lately by the French journals is at the present moment accomplishing its pious excursions in the Holy Land. Arrangements had been made at Jaffa to facilitate their journey to Jerusalem, and, after they had visited the Church of St. George, they slept the first night in the convent of Ramleh, where they were most kindly received. The next day they crossed the mountains of Judaea, and at the first sight of the Holy City precipitated themselves to the ground, and kissed the soil." This is like a bit from the middle ages; indeed, it is difficult to imagine the countrymen of Voltaire in these times "kissing the consecrated earth" of Judaea. After relating the kindness of the reception which Kiamil Pacha, the Governor, gave to the pilgrims, the writer proceeds:—"Although Palestine is one of the most fanatical countries of the Ottoman Empire, Mussulman intolerance is rapidly declining, the war in the Crimea having made a breach in the Koran. Contrary to the prescriptions of Islamism, the Christians can at present, though not without paying for it, construct churches on every spot where one had ever stood. At the present time it is certain that they will obtain the restitution of an ancient sanctuary held by the Mussulmans since the conquest of Jerusalem by Saladin in 1187. The building in question is one erected by the Crusaders on the spot where our Saviour first fell in bearing his cross."

A truce has been agreed upon in Montenegro, the Austrian officers having recommended Prince Danilo to cease hostilities. The Porte has refused the *exequatur* to several Greek Consuls who had compromised themselves in the late war. The septennial census has just been ordered at Constantinople, and the civil list has been definitively established. There has been a rise in the price of corn both at Constantinople and at Smyrna, notwithstanding the favourable accounts received from Russia. A frightful tempest has lately taken place at Varna; all the crops have been destroyed; the houses, the French bridge on the lake, and the port, have suffered severely.

A French squadron is ordered to Constantinople, to

co-operate with the English fleet, as the Isle of Serpents question is not satisfactorily settled. An Austrian squadron is also ordered to the same spot.

"The dissension between the French Ambassador and the Turkish Government, with reference to the privilege granted to Captain Magne and the navigation of the Sereth and the Pruth," says a letter from Constantinople, "is said to be entirely settled. Austria at last listened to reason, and the revocation of the privilege has been again set aside. The Minister of Finance is still in great difficulties, and he has borrowed another 25,000,000 piastres, at eight per cent. interest and two per cent. commission, which makes ten per cent. Rothschild's house furnished the funds through its agent at Constantinople. This sum is hardly sufficient to answer the most pressing wants."

ITALY.

The King of Naples is making all the preparations he can to resist any attempt that may be made to coerce him into reform. He is strengthening his fortifications and concentrating his army. Likewise, he is becoming very religious under the influence of fear, which, however, he affects not to feel. For the present, he remains at Gaeta, where he has removed his valuables and carriages. Mr. Lowther, English Secretary of Legation, has not yet arrived at Gaeta, having been detained by superior orders from England. Mr. Fagan is at Civita Vecchia. In case of the arrival of the Allied fleets, orders will be given by the authorities to put the city of Naples in a state of siege. Baron Hübnér, before leaving, requested the Austrian consul to publish a denial that he (the Baron) had gone to Naples on any special mission; but we all know the worth of ministerial contradictions of popular rumours.

While these diplomatic card-shufflings are going on, the political prisoners are dying. Zeuli, in fact, is dead of consumption, accelerated by hardship; and Poerio has had an operation performed on him, and is confined to his bed.

The King of Naples, it is said, has consulted, not only his usual advisers, but the superior officers of the army and navy, with respect to the present crisis. The advice given by these persons was, that his Majesty would be justified in adopting, if he thought fit, the recommendations of France and England, unless they were accompanied by menace. In consequence of this, the king resolved to reject the ultimatum of the Allied Powers.

The Lazzaroni are being organized and paid by the police; a fact which induces a writer from Genoa in the *Paris Constitutionnel* to observe:—"In Naples, the third city of Europe according to its population, an order of things extremely unnatural now exists: it is democracy closely united with absolutism—it is the Lazzaroni shouting 'Long life to the absolute king!'—it is the red cap and the crown put together."

Two French officers have been in Naples, sounding the populace in the interests of Murat; but they have met with no encouragement.

Some of our contemporaries have announced the stoppage of the *Diritto*, Turinese journal. We are happy to say that our Italian contemporary is vigorously alive, representing a large and powerful party. The rising influence of the *Italia e Popolo*, of Genoa, also, is a sign of the times.

The Ministerial *Austrian Gazette* states that the King of Naples has sent autographic letters to the Emperor Napoleon and Queen Victoria. The King announces that he is willing to send a representative to the Paris Conference, and to communicate his intentions respecting organic reforms and an amnesty.

SWITZERLAND.

M. de Salignac-Fenelon, French Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, has paid an official visit to M. Stampfli, President of the Confederation, for the purpose of asking from him, in the name of the French Government, an amnesty on behalf of the Royalists of Neuchâtel.

GREECE.

The Queen (says a letter from Athens) caused to be voted about a month since a law having for its object the partition of national property among those who support her Majesty's policy. The law was the cause of much scandal and irritation in the capital and the provinces, and the Ministers of France and England no doubt communicated the fact to their respective Governments, as they have received instructions to inform the Greek Government that the loan of 60,000,000 had for its guarantee that property, which could not be alienated without the assent of the three Powers.

The Governments of France and England have approved the conduct of the French Admiral Bouët-Willaumez on the subject of the command in the Piræus. This has given great offence at court.

MONTENEGRO.

Austria supports the application of Montenegro for an extension of frontier, but all negotiations have been again put an end to by a renewal of hostilities between the Turks and Montenegrins.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

According to information received in Paris, the return of the Ottoman forces to Wallachia has coincided with the occupation of Galatz by an Austrian force of 3000 men. Prince Schwarzenberg, Governor of Transylvania,

was at Galatz on the 27th ult., and left in the evening for Jassy.

Great surprise and excitement have been caused by the announcement that four thousand Austrian soldiers have suddenly seized Galatz and occupied it; have also occupied Ibrail, and seized on all the ports of the Danube. They have taken possession of the police and post-offices, and are complete masters of the town mentioned.

THE REGISTRATIONS.

At the close, on Friday week, of the revision of the list of voters for the City of London, the Revising Barrister called attention to the strange apathy with respect to the suffrage exhibited by voters—an apathy not creditable to freemen. He observed:—"To those who have paid attention to this registration it must have been more than apparent that there has been generally the most complete state of apathy as to the elective franchise into which a constituency could well be supposed to have fallen. It was very different a few years ago; then the franchise was greedily sought after, and it required some exertion to prevent persons getting on the register who had no pretensions to be there; but now all is listlessness and total indifference as to whether persons have votes or not. In several instances where parties have been objected to, and did not appear, and it was supposed that they might either have forgotten or not been aware of the precise time when their lists would be taken, I have myself suggested that these cases should stand over for an hour or two, or a day, so that reminding notices might be sent to the individuals, which has been done, and of all who have been thus dealt with I do not think that more than three—certainly not more than four—persons have availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them of coming here, their answer generally having been, 'No, I don't care about my vote; I don't care whether I have it or not.'" The barrister then proceeded to comment on the nature of the objections:—"The objections which have been taken this year have been all on one side—on that which I believe is called the Liberal party. As is now pretty well understood, when an objection to a party's name being on a list has been served, and called on in court, the party objected to is required to appear and prove his qualification to the satisfaction of the barrister, otherwise the revising barrister is laid under the necessity of expunging his name from the list on which it may appear. It is not necessary that the objector or his agent, who may be in court, should open his lips until after he who has been objected to shall have proved his right to be registered. The result of this has been, that generally I have no knowledge of the nature of the objections that were taken. I had no right to ask an objector what the grounds of his objections were. Whether the objections, or the majority of them, therefore, that have been taken this year and prevailed, would, if they had been investigated, have been found to be well grounded or not, I have had no certain means of knowing."

Mr. Sidney Smith, one of the agents, afterwards supplied the annexed statistics of the registrations:—"Of persons who were on last year's register, who were now omitted, there were 1652 householders and 299 livermen. Of persons not on last year's register, and not inserted on the new register, there were 1699 householders and 181 livermen, making a total of 1879, being a difference of only eight in a list of 21,000 names. In respect to objections, there were 465 householders and 111 livermen, making a total of 576. When the learned barrister commenced the revision there were about 5000 objections taken on each side, but now they were reduced to about one-tenth that number. With respect to claims, 55 were allowed and 13 were withdrawn. The objections allowed were 533; failed, 42; and erased by the Court, 27."

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

MIRAGE.—A curious instance of this phenomenon is given in a letter from the agent stationed at Aden of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, who writes thus, under date September 15:—"Yesterday, a little after noon, the signal was made 'a steamer to the eastward,' and was kept flying the whole afternoon; towards evening, the signalman reported that the steamer was gradually receding, and supposed that she had either broken down or run out of coals. On this, the Political Resident ordered the hon. company's steamer *Queen* to get up steam and go to her assistance. The *Queen* accordingly left about nine o'clock, and met the *Oriental* at three o'clock this morning steaming along all right. At the time the steamer was signalled, she was on hundred and fifty miles from Aden, and we can only account for this very singular phenomenon by some optical illusion, such as the mirage."

LORD CARDIGAN.—In connexion with the dispute between Lord Cardigan and Colonel Buck mentioned in our last number, the latter officer has addressed to the earl a letter containing a review of his lordship's military career, of a nature by no means flattering; and this letter he has since sent to the *Times*, where it has been published. Colonel Buck writes:—"Your Lordship evidently requires from me some explanation of my allusion

to the sums of money paid for your advancement in the army. Considering your Lordship and Colonel Morris to be types of the two differing systems of promotion in the English army—your Lordship representing that of advancement by money without distinguished merit; Colonel Morris, on the other hand, illustrating that of advancement by distinguished merit in the field before the enemy in India and in the Crimea—I congratulated Colonel Morris upon having achieved by merit what it was reported your Lordship had attained at the cost of between 30,000*l.* and 40,000*l.* My attention was called to this matter by a return which was circulated among members of the House of Commons, giving the dates of promotion of every staff officer who had served, or was then serving, in the Crimea. Your Lordship's promotion, without any distinguished or, I believe, foreign service, was by far the most rapid of any officer. In May, 1824, your Lordship was a cornet; in December, 1830, you obtained your lieutenant-colonelcy. Your Lordship was subsequently removed from the command of your regiment for organizing a system of espionage in your orderly room, by which you gathered matter for a court-martial upon Captain Wathen, a distinguished officer. Captain Wathen was acquitted of the charges preferred by your Lordship, and you were removed from the command of your regiment. Notwithstanding this, your promotion went on, and in 1846 you obtained your colonel's commission. I confess, upon looking over this return, I endeavoured to ascertain from those acquainted with the Horse Guards' machinery how your Lordship had attained such rapid promotion. I failed in understanding the process, but I was informed your Lordship's advancement had cost you 34,000*l.* If your Lordship to secure your advancement was compelled to expend so large a sum, the inference can only be that an officer without such resources would fail in his advancement in the British army, and that money—not merit—decides the destiny of her officers. I shall be happy to join ultra-Radicals, or any other class of politicians, during the next session of Parliament, in securing for the army a more just and efficient system of promotion.

THE GREAT WROUGHT-IRON GUN.—Some experiments made at Shoeburyness with the monster wrought-iron gun manufactured by the Mersey Steel and Iron Company, have been very successful. The trial was conducted under the direction of Colonel Mitchell, in the presence of a select committee of Artillery officers from Woolwich.

A VESSEL ON FIRE IN THE TYNE.—The *Nymph*, Captain Brewer, for Arbroath from Sunderland, was brought into the Tyne on the morning of Friday week, on fire. Her cargo was lime, and this had ignited while the vessel was off Shields bar. On being brought into the Tyne, she was scuttled on the Dordwick sands. She has been greatly injured by the fire.

LOSS OF AN OLD BRITISH MERCHANTMAN.—A letter has been received from Mr. H. England, an agent sent out by the Tyne Insurance clubs to the island of Gottland, who states that the old *Liberty* and *Property* of South Shields, which was stranded on that island, is a total wreck, and that her stores will be sold for the benefit of the underwriters. The *Liberty* and *Property* was among the oldest, if she was not the very oldest, merchant vessel in England, having been built in the year 1750 at Whitby. She was well known to the seafaring population on the north-east coast, having been engaged in the coal and Baltic trade and the transport service during the whole of her long reign. She was a strange, old-fashioned looking craft, and generally attracted a good deal of attention.

REGIMENTAL BANDS.—A circular has been issued to the commanding officers of regiments, which commences thus:—"His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief, with a view to relieve regiments from the great expense now consequent upon the necessity of employing professed musicians—civilians—as masters of bands, has it in contemplation to recommend the establishment of a large musical class, as part of the education of boys sent to the Royal Military Asylum, and for the instruction of persons sent from regiments to qualify for bugle-majors, trumpet-majors, and band-masters, and whose training would require special time and attention." The Duke therefore desires to have the opinion of the commanding officers on the subject.

STROLLING PLAYERS IN MILITARY SCHOOLS.—A general order has been issued from the Horse Guards, by direction of the Duke of Cambridge, the General Commanding-in-Chief, strictly forbidding that permission be given to strolling performers to exhibit in military schoolrooms. There is no objection to schoolrooms being used by soldiers under proper restrictions.

THE LOST FOUND.—After several days of anxiety and fear, the owner and friends of the crew of the brig *Excavator*, of North Shields, received a telegraphic message on Friday week, stating that that vessel had arrived in safety in a port in Holland, where she had sought shelter. She had sailed fifteen days, and had been long overdue.

SHIPWRECK ON THE NORFOLK COAST.—In the course of the recent heavy equinoctial gales, the bark *Coromandel*, 600 tons, was wrecked on the Ridge Sand, near Winterton, Norfolk. The ship sailed from Archangel for London on the 13th of August, and was laden with

deals. In the course of the voyage, thick and bad weather was experienced, and the crew were exhausted by constant labour at the pumps. Shortly after the vessel struck on the sand, part of her deck cargo was washed away, the stern was broken in, and the poop was gutted. The mate and some of the crew got on board the *Falcon* schooner, and the master (Captain Anderson) and the remainder of the crew were saved in a fishing smack.

SHIPWRECK ON THE MEXICAN STATION.—The Royal Mail Company's steamer *Tay* has been wrecked on the Mexican station. The accident took place three miles south of Cape Roxo, it is supposed on the route from Vera Cruz to Tampico. All on board were safely landed, except two of the crew, who were drowned from the swamping of a boat. The mails were saved. The cargo included five hundred bottles of quicksilver, which were lost.

A MILITARY HANDBOOK BY FELICE ORSINI.—Signor Felice Orsini is engaged upon a "Military Field Handbook for officers and non-commissioned officers of all arms, and for officers on the general and divisional staff," embracing a complete course of military studies, upon an original plan. English military readers will look with much interest for the appearance of this manual by a foreign officer possessing the experience and reputation of Orsini.

MILITARY SCANDALS.—The Fourth Light Dragoons, stationed at Brighton, have been distinguishing themselves by freaks of the same disgraceful nature as those which were played off about two years ago on Lieutenant Perry. In consequence of a report of these matters to the Horse Guards, General Lawrenson, the General of Brigade, has gone down to Brighton, and the following officers have been ordered under close arrest:—Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, Captain Burt, and Cornet Winstanley. Their swords, moreover, have been taken from them. A strict investigation will be made.—Quarter-master-Sergeant Edward Harris, paymaster of the D troop of Royal Horse Artillery, has absconded with a large sum of money. Major H. L. Gardner, the commanding officer of the troop, has recently been on leave of absence, and prior to his departure he arranged with another officer to sign cheques for Harris in case money was wanted. Harris availed himself of this opportunity to obtain cheques to the amount of 200*l.*, and, in addition to this sum, he has gone off with 200*l.* in gold and ten 5*l.* Bank of England notes, making a total of 450*l.* Three other paymasters of companies of the Royal Artillery are to be tried by court-martial for similar offences. On Wednesday week, in pursuance of a sentence confirmed by the War-office, a non-commissioned officer received the punishment of the lash, and is to undergo twelve months' imprisonment, and be reduced to the ranks, for forging bills, &c.

COLLISIONS AT SEA.—The *Yeoman*, a merchant-ship of Liverpool, has come into collision with the *Helen Heiglers*, another merchantman belonging to the same port, in consequence of which both vessels have sunk, and the captain and all the crew of the *Yeoman*, except three men, have been drowned. The last-named ship was on her passage to Castine, in British America, with a cargo of salt, and the *Helen Heiglers* was homeward-bound from Calcutta, with a miscellaneous cargo valued at upwards of 20,000*l.* When the two ships had reached a point situated between Ballycotton and Tuskar Rock, they came into collision with each other, and the *Yeoman* sank eight minutes after the occurrence. The captain and eighteen officers went down with her and perished. Three of her crew were saved by clinging to the bowsprit rigging of the *Helen Heiglers*. Although much injured by the shock, the latter vessel, by dint of incessant hard working at the pumps, was kept afloat until a boat was sent to her aid, when the captain and all the crew, together with the three men of the *Yeoman*, were rescued. About two hours afterwards the *Helen Heiglers* sank.—A collision between two ships has taken place near Holyhead. The *Bonita* recently sailed on her outward-bound voyage from the river Mersey. On arriving at that port she came in contact with the *Cambrina*, from Moulmein, and lost her cat-head and jib-boom. The other ship had only her quarter injured. The *Bonita* was obliged to put back to port for repairs. No lives appear to have been lost.

LIEUTENANT MASSEY ON HERO-WORSHIP.—Lieutenant Massey having taken offence at some remarks in the *Globe*, accusing him of regarding himself as a hero, of receiving "preposterously fulsome addresses," and of grumbling at "the cold shade of aristocracy," has written to our evening contemporary, denying the charges, repudiating all claim to be considered a hero, asserting that the one address offered to him was not "fulsome," and acknowledging great kindness and favour on the part of those high in office. The lieutenant then proceeds in a strain which, as far as self-exaltation goes, is a very strong confirmation of the charge brought against him. He remarks:—"Sir, you do not know the miseries of being a hero. Penny-a-liners arrest your servants as they go of errands and ask where you were born, where you were brought up, who was your grandfather, and who was your schoolmaster; and some day you see a hideous biographical caricature of yourself." Lieutenant Massey proceeds in the same strain through the whole of a long paragraph.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

A SCOTCH MURDER.

JAMES M'MANUS, a labourer at the Castlehill Iron-works, Lanarkshire, has been tried at the Glasgow Circuit Court of Justiciary for the murder of Henry M'Lavey, a workman in the same establishment. The circumstances are rather peculiar. M'Lavey seems to have been an irritable and violent man. One of the witnesses said "he was very quiet if you did not 'fash' him, but if you did he was very quick in the temper;" another stated that he was often "in bad bread with his neighbours, and quarrelled with most of them." M'Manus was described as a very peaceable man. On the 12th of last August, the deceased fastened a quarrel on a fellow-workman, an Irishman named Patrick Dinnan. This person, being not so strong a man as M'Lavey, and being afraid of him, went away, but was followed by the other, who asked him to fight. The challenge being declined, M'Lavey seized hold of Dinnan, and shook him violently. This was in the presence of several persons. Suddenly, in the midst of the shaking, M'Lavey fell down as if in a fit—"like the clap of a hand," as Dinnan stated at the trial. Blood was seen on his head, but no one had spoken to him, nor had he spoken to any one. Dinnan seems to have been paralysed by this sudden event; for he kept looking at the prostrate man, and, though he observed an iron bar lying on the ground beside the body, he did not perceive the presence of any third party. At that moment, however, the voice of the foreman of the works was heard to exclaim, "You cruel wretch! you have murdered the man;" and the workmen observed M'Manus walking away from the body. The foreman, also, had seen him strike the blow, which he did with his two hands grasping the iron bar. He was followed and brought back, without making any attempt at resistance. Being asked his motive, he said there was "an old spleen" between him and M'Lavey, and that "he had revenged himself that day." He stated furthermore that, when M'Lavey lodged with him, he went about slandering him, and was "a foul-mouthed beast," and that, the day before, he (M'Lavey) had threatened to knock out both his (M'Manus's) eyes. He had meditated the attack, he said, for four or five months; but he now expressed regret for having done it, and to some one who observed that perhaps the affair would not turn out so bad as was at first thought, he replied that he would not have said so if he had seen the wound. M'Lavey died in the course of the same day.

At the trial, M'Manus pleaded guilty of culpable homicide, and said he did not mean to kill the man. The jury found him guilty of murder, but recommended him to mercy on the ground that he did not intend to kill. He was sentenced to death, and was assisted from the dock, apparently overwhelmed with anguish.

MORE WOMEN SUICIDES.—A young Irishwoman attempted a few nights ago to drown herself by leaping from London-bridge. A constable had been watching her for some time, and, just as she was scrambling over the parapet-wall, he seized hold of her, and dragged her back. When brought before Alderman Wire at the Mansion House, she said she had no home to go to; that she had not been able to get into service; and that they had refused to take her in at the Whitechapel workhouse, and had told her she ought to go to Ireland. The Alderman directed an officer of the court to take her to some friends she had mentioned, and to ascertain whether they were willing to receive her.—Two young women were charged at Bow-street on Monday, the one with attempting to jump off Waterloo Bridge, the other with throwing herself into the river at the foot of Westminster Bridge. The first was a dress-maker, the other a servant; and the former was intoxicated at the time of the attempted act. Both were remanded, as they refused to give any reasons for what they had done.—A young woman, dressed in black, was charged at Guildhall, on the same day, with endeavouring to kill herself by swallowing a large quantity of laudanum. She was found sitting on the steps of the Scotch chapel in Fore-street, and said, in answer to a policeman, that she had taken poison. She appeared to be very thirsty, and kept putting her tongue out; and she gave the constable a bottle labelled "Laudanum," from which she said she had drunk three pennyworth of the drug. When brought before the Alderman, she refused to give any account of herself, and was remanded.—A sickly-looking girl, between sixteen and seventeen years of age, named Rosina Ray, was charged at the Thames police court with swallowing oxalic acid. She obtained two pennyworth of this poison from a chemist and druggist, who asked no questions as to what she wanted with it. She was taken to the London Hospital, where the stomach pump was employed, and the poison dislodged. The wretched creature had been on the town, and was ill. A City Missionary had seen her, and she had expressed great contrition, and had intimated that she desired to leave her recent mode of life. When asked by Mr. Yardley, the magistrate, whether she was sorry for the act she had committed, she replied, after several repetitions of the question, that she would not do so

again. Mr. Yardley then admonished her, and directed that she should be taken to the Probationary Refuge for Penitent Girls in Thomas-street, Mile End. She appeared to be extremely dejected and ill.—The wife of a policeman living near the Mile End-road has killed herself by swallowing a pennyworth of oxalic acid. Her mind appears to have been deranged.—Sarah Smith, described as a prostitute, was charged at Clerkenwell with attempting to throw herself into the Regent's Canal. Jealousy appears to have been the motive. She said to the magistrate she was sorry for the act, and had a child to keep, whose father had gone abroad. Mr. Tyrwhitt addressed a few kind words to her, discharged her, and gave her a trifle for the child.—Marion West, a respectable-looking young woman, has appeared at the Marlborough-street police court, charged with twice attempting to hang herself in the police cell of the Vine-street station. She pleaded intoxication as her excuse, and was committed to prison for seven days.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY A MAN.—Thomas Burdett Howe, who said he had been employed for ten years in a printing office, was charged on Monday at Bow-street with jumping off one of the river steamboats at the Adelphi Pier. He was got out of the water by the captain and two others, and, according to the witnesses, seemed very glad of it. He was drunk at the time, and alleged in his defence that he was confused by liquor, and by an attempt which had been made on board to rob him. He was discharged.—A man has committed suicide by throwing himself from the top of the Surrey-side shaft of the Thames Tunnel.—An elderly man was brought before the Clerkenwell magistrate on a charge of throwing himself into the New River, Stoke Newington. He said he was borne down by difficulties; and a gentleman who knew him having promised to be answerable for him, he was discharged.

CRIMINAL YOUTH.—Edwin Walker, about twenty years of age, was charged at Clerkenwell with stealing a quantity of gold and silver from his employer; and a watchcase maker, who carries on business in Albert-place, City-road, was at the same time charged with receiving the property, though well knowing it to have been stolen. The former confessed his guilt, but said that another apprentice was equally bad with himself. The man who had bought the plunder was discharged, though not without a severe lecture from the magistrate, who observed that the entries of the goods bought by him of Walker were very slovenly and obscure, and not such as a fair and honest tradesman would have made. In future, he must be more cautious, and make inquiries under suspicious circumstances. The receivers in these cases the magistrate regarded as worse than the thieves; for it is owing to the facilities they offer that robberies are of frequent occurrence. Walker was sentenced to the House of Correction for three months.—The same sentence was passed on George Williams, a boy of fourteen, who was charged with stealing a timepiece and a pair of boots, and who also admitted his guilt, adding that he wished to be sent to some reformatory. The magistrate said he would be sent to school during his imprisonment, and when the term had expired, he had better call at the court, and something should be done for him. The boy thanked the magistrate, and was locked up.

THE LORD JUSTICE CLERK ON STRIKES AND INTIMIDATION.—At the close of the Glasgow circuit on Thursday week, the Lord Justice Clerk, in addressing the Sheriffs of Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumbarton, made some remarks on the state of the law bearing upon intimidation arising from workmen's strikes. His Lordship's observations were caused by the recent report of the Commissioner for the Mining Districts, in which it was stated that, during the late great miners' strike in the west of Scotland, certain sheriffs-substitute expressed the opinion that they could not interfere to repress great assemblages of men held for the known purpose of intimidating their fellow-workmen, unless violence had been actually committed. This opinion was emphatically denied by his Lordship, who said he thought it was very injudicious and indecorous in any judge to put forward such an interpretation of the statute, which, besides being entirely erroneous, was calculated to induce workmen to believe that there is a want of consistency and firmness in the administration of the law.

MURDER IN NORTHUMBERLAND.—Two men—Mark Cunningham, a native of Durham, and Michael Cawthorn, a pedlar belonging to Warden—were drinking at a public-house at Hexham, when a quarrel arose, having reference to some alleged cheating at cards. Cunningham struck at the other, and then proceeded to his own lodgings, followed by Cawthorn, who resumed the quarrel, and, suddenly pulling out a large knife, stabbed Cunningham three times in the lower part of the bowels. Medical assistance was called, and the wounds were pronounced to be deadly; but the man, being of a strong constitution, lingered for three or four days, when inflammation ensued, and he died. Cawthorn is in custody, and has been removed to Morpeth Gaol on a coroner's warrant, charged with Wilful Murder.

ASSAULTS IN PUBLIC-HOUSES.—A private in the German Legion, named George Braun, was charged at the Worship-street police-court with attempting to stab the landlord of a public-house in Bethnal-green, and also

with severely wounding three other men who came to the landlord's assistance. Braun entered the house one evening in a very wild and excited state, and called for drink. The landlord, perceiving that the man was intoxicated, refused to let him have any, upon which the accused took a knife out of his pocket, and deliberately aimed a blow with it at the landlord, across the counter. The latter fortunately drew back time enough to elude the blow, but Braun, exasperated at his failure, sprang on to the counter, and attempted a second time to stab the landlord. He would probably have succeeded in his endeavour, if three men, who happened to enter the premises at the time, had not seized the ruffian, and thus rescued the landlord from harm; but in so doing the men received several severe wounds from the knife; one of them nearly had a finger cut off. Ultimately a policeman was called, and Braun was given into custody. When brought before the magistrate, he stated, through an interpreter, that he was so drunk as to be scarcely conscious of what he was about. Mr. Hammill fined him 5*l*. Not being able to pay the amount he was sent to prison for two months.—A seaman, a native of Peru, calling himself Thomas Royal, was charged at the Thames police-court with assaulting Mrs. Biggs, landlady of an ale and beer shop in St. Leonard's-road, Bromley. The accused went into the shop, and ordered half a pint of beer, and on its being given to him, asked for some tobacco. The landlady told him that they had none, but gave him a light on his requesting to have one. After this, the man began abusing Mrs. Biggs in broken English, and when she told him to leave the shop, he seized her mouth with one hand, while he inflicted a violent blow on the side of her head with a large stone which he held in the other. A severe wound was caused, and the woman fell to the ground, stunned by the blow, and fainting from loss of blood. She had suffered immense pain ever since. In his defence, the man stated, through a policeman who could speak Spanish, that he struck Mrs. Biggs because he thought she had mixed water with his beer. This the landlady denied. He then told the magistrate that he had been confined for some time in a lunatic asylum. Mr. Selfe, the magistrate, said that, though the action he had committed was very like that of a madman, he must treat him as a sane person. He therefore committed him for three months, with hard labour, to the House of Correction.—Daniel Driscoll, a ticket-of-leave man, has been committed for trial on a charge of attempting to rob the till of a public-house at Pickle Herring-stairs, Bermondsey, and of violently assaulting the barmaid who interfered to prevent him.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF G. F. LILLICRAFT.—The certificate meeting of this bankrupt (the particulars of whose insolvency have already appeared in the *Leader*) took place on Monday. The court had ordered the bankrupt to be indicted for having abstracted property with a view to cheat his creditors. He was acquitted. It was now urged that the court could not take cognizance of the specific offences of which the bankrupt had been acquitted by a jury. Mr. Commissioner Goulburn said: "The Lords Justices, in the case of a bankrupt named Martin, had decided that it would be unfair towards a man who had been once tried to put him again in jeopardy for the same offence. He should take that view of the case; and, the bankrupt having been already eighteen months without a certificate, he considered that a sufficient punishment for the recklessness and improvidence of which he had been guilty. An immediate certificate, third class, would now, therefore, be granted."

THE HEIGHT OF IMPUDENCE.—The shop of a law stationer in Harewood-place, Oxford-street, was recently entered, and several legal documents, of no use but to the owner, were carried off. Shortly afterwards, a paper was received by the stationer, containing an advertisement intimating that, on the receipt of 80*l*., all that had been stolen would be given up. An answer was requested. Accordingly, 8*l*. were offered; but the proposal has not been accepted.

SCOUNDRELS RIGHTLY PUNISHED.—A Mr. Webster, living at Holloway, was summoned at the Clerkenwell police-court on the charge of causing the death of a St. Bernard dog by ill-treating it. He came across the animal in the streets, and deliberately kicked it with great brutality. The poor creature on going home vomited a great deal of blood, and, though attended by a veterinary surgeon, died in the course of a few days, when it was found that the bladder had been ruptured. The dog was of great money value, being of a race which is celebrated in Switzerland for saving the lives of persons lost in the snow. Mr. Webster admitted having kicked the animal, but alleged that it had run among his children, unmuzzled. He said he had no objection to settle with the owner for the loss; but, the compromise being rejected, the accused (to his great surprise) was sent to prison, with hard labour, for a month.—Michael Hayes, a costermonger, has also been sentenced to a month's hard labour by the same magistrate for beating his donkey with great brutality. He had repeatedly struck it with a thick ash stick over the hips and back.

A CLERICAL APOLOGIST FOR WIFE-BEATING.—The Rev. George Bird, of Whitehaven, has publicly preached in favour of wife-beating, which he holds to be in accordance with the law of God, perfectly Scriptural, and

necessary to enable a man to rule his own household. Encouraged by these views, a member of Mr. Bird's congregation beat his wife most unmercifully because she refused to attend the same place of worship as he did. Upon being brought before the magistrate, the offender asked if he was to obey the laws of God or of man. He was sentenced to a month's hard labour; and the Rev. Mr. Bird then delivered a course of lectures, in which he chirped forth his wife-beating and Scriptural doctrines.

FORGERY.—Thomas Clark was on Tuesday brought before the Lord Mayor, charged with having forged and uttered a cheque for 10*l*. 10*s*., with intent to defraud Messrs. Cooper, Lee, Bevan, and Co., the bankers. The cheque purported to be signed by Mr. T. Roper, wholesale druggist, Falcon-square, City, who had an account at the bank; but the writing was not his. Clark, who had given the cheque to a boy to be delivered, was committed for trial.—A respectably-dressed young man, attired in deep black, who seemed to feel his position very acutely, and who gave his name as Thomas Freeman, of 46, Britannia-terrace, City-road, described on the police-sheet as a lithographer, but passing for a Methodist preacher, was brought before Mr. Corrie, at Clerkenwell, charged with knowingly uttering two forged orders on the 27th of September, one being for the sum of 7*l*. 7*s*., and the other for 1*l*. 19*s*. He had paid the first of these to a tailor in quitance for a bill he owed him, and the other he got the same tradesman to cash for him. Some time previously, he had gone to the printer of the cheques, and asked him to let him have some of them; but this was of course refused. However, he would seem to have stolen some of them. He was arrested at Lewes on Sunday. A remand until Monday was agreed to by the magistrate.—Richard Crump Barford, a man in a smock-frock, is under remand at the Mansion House, charged with uttering forged notes, purporting to be notes of the Bank of England. He went four times to a ham and beef shop in Leadenhall-street for small purchases, and each time passed a forged 5*l*. note. At length, he was suspected; and, on going a fifth time, he was given into custody. He wrote his name and address on the notes he tendered; and he referred on each occasion to a neighbour. The last time, he seems to have designed passing a forged 10*l*. note, as this was the only thing in the shape of money found on him.

ROBBERY BY A SOLDIER.—Joseph Woodford, a private in the Fusilier Guards, has been committed for trial on a charge of stealing three 10*l*. Bank of England notes, and ten sovereigns, the notes belonging to the Hon. Colonel Charteris, and the gold to Pay-Sergeant George Stewart, of the same regiment.

A PIG AND BULL STORY.—Two young men, James Cardwell and William Cross, have been examined before the magistrates at Rotherham, and committed for trial, on a charge of stealing two sheep and some wheat. It also came out that they had endeavoured to steal a pig, which escaped from them in a very singular manner. They were driving the animal along a narrow footpath, and, coming to a field gate which they desired to cross, they thought they would kill the pig first. One of them took out a pocket-knife, and commenced cutting its throat; but the creature escaped, jumped through the bars of the gate, and ran off, loudly squealing, across the field. The thieves pursued, but were soon forced to retreat by the sudden apparition of a ferocious bull, which, aroused and irritated at the noise, ran full tilt at the invaders of its domain. They narrowly escaped being tossed, and, after lingering about for some time in the hope that an opportunity might present itself for retrieving their fortune, they were forced to go away without their prize.

THE CASE OF SLANDERING A LADY.—Mr. Arthur Henry Welch, the barrister, summoned at Bow-street to answer a charge of sending slanderous letters to Miss Colquhoun, a young lady to whom he had been paying his addresses, appeared again on Tuesday, and signed a document agreeing not to molest the lady any more, and to relinquish all claim to her hand. He also offered, through his counsel, an apology for his conduct.

WIFE-BEATING.—Charles Hanham, a man wearing the Crimean medal, and Samuel Crow, were respectively charged at Marlborough-street with assaults on their wives. The first was sent to prison for six months; the second was ordered to find one surety to keep the peace for three months.—At the Worship-street office, Edward Wayne, a journeyman brushmaker, was sentenced to two months' hard labour for beating and ill-using his wife. At the termination of his sentence, he is to find bail for good behaviour for another six months. He was in the habit of getting drunk, and frequently acted towards his wife with great brutality; but she, as usual, desired to screen him, probably through fear.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.—The October Quarter Sessions commenced on Monday.—James Green, described as a stableman, has been found guilty of stealing a mare, value 40*l*. He was sentenced to penal servitude for six years, being proved to be an old offender.—George Mitchell, twelve years of age, and Charles John Mitchell, nineteen (brothers), and Mary Ann Mitchell (their mother), pleaded "Guilty" to stealing six knives and other articles, the property of John Miers, the master of

George Mitchell. The Assistant-Judge sentenced George Mitchell to six weeks' imprisonment, and afterwards to be sent to Redhill Reformatory for three years; Charles John Mitchell to imprisonment for four months; and Mary Ann Mitchell for eight months.

A MURDEROUS SEAMAN.—An Italian seaman, named Antonio Blackman, was charged at the Thames police-court with assault and mutinous conduct while on board the ship Glenroy on her passage from Calcutta to London. On the day after he joined the ship's company, he was ill, or pretended to be so, and deserted. He was brought on board, however, and the captain, in consideration of his apparently unhealthy state, gave him light work about the decks. On the 11th of last May, he and the men of the ship had a quarrel, and Blackman threatened the latter. He was ordered to go below, but he went to the cook's galley instead, where he armed himself with an iron bar and two knives. With these weapons he went up to the fore topmast, and threatened to stab anybody who should attempt to bring him down. The captain having in vain fired blank cartridge at him, sent up the carpenter and some other men to fetch him down, and, after a hard struggle, during which he stabbed one man, he was secured and put in irons. These, however, he got off, and again came on deck, armed with a heavy iron bolt, and greatly alarmed everybody by his murderous threats. After a desperate resistance, he was seized and put below again, and at the request of the crew, he was then handcuffed and fettered. Shortly afterwards, the ruffian appeared repentant and submissive, and was allowed to go on deck for a short time, but he had previously armed himself with a knife and an iron bar, and as soon as he was set free, he used deadly threats to everybody on board. He secreted himself in a dark place; and, on the captain going to him armed with a loaded pistol, which he fired without effect at the Italian, the latter struck him a heavy blow over the left eye with his iron bar, which completely stunned him, and he bled profusely from the wound. The fellow was once more secured and kept in close confinement for the remainder of the voyage. Mr. Selfe fined him 5*l.* or two months' imprisonment for the assault on the captain, and passed a similar sentence on him for assaulting the mate.

THE FATAL CASE OF PRACTICAL JOKING.—A verdict of manslaughter has been returned by the coroner's jury against Jacob Francis, the man who killed his fellow-labourer in a corn-field by throwing a barley-fork at him, as related in our last week's paper under the head of "Accidents and Sudden Deaths;" and he has been committed by the magistrates for trial. It would seem he was irritated against Burridge at the time, but that he had no intention of killing him. Francis's father, an old man, who was deeply affected, said his son had never been quite right in his mind from his birth, and that the other men were in the habit of teasing him.

STABBING BY A GERMAN SOLDIER.—A soldier belonging to the German Legion has inflicted several deep stabs on the shoulder and arm of one of his comrades, with whom he had a quarrel in the village of Wivenhoe. The wounds, though very serious, are not mortal. The culprit is under arrest. The conduct of the German soldiers has latterly been of great annoyance to the villagers.

A FRAUDULENT BANKRUPT.—An adjourned certificate meeting, in connexion with the affairs of Charles Avery, a colonial broker in Fenchurch-street, took place in the Court of Bankruptcy on Wednesday. He had traded from 1846 to 1855, though without any capital, and had kept himself up by means of false cheques. He had been indicted for obtaining goods and money by false pretences, and also for obtaining goods three months before he was adjudged a bankrupt, with intent to cheat his creditors; but he was acquitted, having evaded liability by petitioning the Bankruptcy Court under the Arrangement Clause. The Commissioner suspended his certificate for two months beyond the present time, withholding protection; and, for eighteen months from the date of the petition, there will be a further suspension. The bankrupt was arrested on leaving the court.

ADULTERATION CASE.—Thomas Preston, who described himself as clerk to a conveyancing barrister, and who is also a Sunday-school teacher, was summoned at Lambeth to show cause why a certain illegitimate child should not be fathered on him. The allegation of the mother was that he had seduced her under promise of marriage. The two had been 'keeping company' for some time; but Preston had latterly deserted the girl, and is now engaged to another woman. The young man denied the imputed paternity, and produced diaries of his own and of the young lady to whom he is now attached to prove that he was not with the mother at the times the intercourse is alleged to have taken place; but it seems he had admitted his liability to the parents, and he was ordered to pay 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.—The Rev. E. L. Hernandez, teacher of languages, and at one time a Roman Catholic priest, has been adjudged by the Marlborough-street magistrate the father of an illegitimate child, of which a young woman named Fanny Allen is the mother. There have been several adjourned examinations; and the mother has throughout adhered to the same statement, that the reverend gentleman seduced her while she lived as servant with him; that the intercourse continued and extended over several years, at various places, and that, at one period, Mr.

Hernandez actually lived in lodgings with her as her husband. The mother deposed to the receipt of money at various times for the support of the child, which assistance had ceased for about eight months; but the alleged father, while admitting that he had given money, said it was only from charity. He also acknowledged that he gave the mother a shilling on the child's birthday to make a plum-pudding; but this was merely out of kindness. He was ordered to pay the half-crown a week usual in these cases.

ASSAULT.—Charles Bankes, the son of a woman who keeps a disreputable house, has been sent to prison for a month with hard labour, for assaulting a policeman, whom he savagely kicked in the abdomen, without provocation.

THE END OF THE TRAGEDY.—Mr. James Holmes Hopkinson, the chemist and druggist of Broad-street, Ratcliffe-highway, whose wife was last week brought before the Thames magistrate for attempting to poison herself, owing to her husband's ill-usage of her, has since died under very dreadful circumstances. On the very evening of the day when his wife was discharged, he went with her to a coffee-house at Charing Cross, and, while drinking some tea, ruptured a blood-vessel, and vomited a large quantity of blood. He was taken home in a cab, and medical assistance was called in; but all in vain. An attack of *delirium tremens*, consequent on Mr. Hopkinson's drinking habits, supervened, and, after making a will, in which he left all his property to his wife, who attended him with great devotion, he expired. He was only twenty-nine.

ATTEMPT TO DROWN.—A dreadful attack has been made upon a young woman residing at Kirn, in Scotland. She accepted an offer of a sail in a rowing-boat on Holy Loch. The man who made the offer was Hugh Murray, a mason and a married man. After they had proceeded some distance, the ruffian made dishonourable proposals to her, and, on her refusing to grant his requests, he repeatedly attempted to drown her. Her cries for help at length brought some boatmen to her assistance, and she was found nearly exhausted by her struggles in the water. Murray escaped, and has not since been apprehended.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

An embankment on the recently opened branch of the South Yorkshire Railway, running from Doncaster to Thorne, gave way last Saturday while a passenger train with some coal waggons attached to it was going by. Several of the waggons were thrown over, and the whole train came to a standstill. The passenger carriages fortunately retained their position, and the persons inside, about forty in number, received no further injury than a smart shock and some degree of fright. Most of the day was occupied in clearing the line; but, as the accident happened at a place where there are two sidings, there was no interruption of the regular traffic.

A passenger train from Manchester, last Saturday evening, ran into a goods train which was being shunted on to a small branch near the viaduct of the London and North-Western Railway over the Ribble, and close to the Preston station. The former train was not going at a rapid rate; but the collision was of sufficient violence to cause some injuries to the passengers. The driver and stoker were unhurt.

An inquest has been held on Henry Benjamin Seal, engine driver in the employ of Peto and Betts, contractors for the New West End and Crystal Palace Railway, who was crushed to death by the falling of an engine and part of a train of ballast waggons, off Leigham-lane bridge, near Norwood, into the roadway beneath. Several other persons, who were also on the engine at the time, and fell with it, were so seriously injured that three of them were taken to the hospital. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

As an express train from Blackburn to Liverpool was passing at full speed between Blackburn and Bamber-bridge, on Monday morning, two wheels of a first-class carriage broke down. The underworks of the carriage were at once demolished, and the vehicle itself was embedded in the earth. The break having been applied, the train was immediately stopped, and the passengers sustained no injury.

Two men have been killed on the Wilts and Somerset Railway, and a great many sheep have been destroyed, by a lamentable catastrophe, which happened on Monday evening. A train, consisting of thirty-five trucks filled with sheep, oxen, and heifers, and drawn by two powerful engines, dashed into the Wilton station (owing, it is supposed, to the steam not being shut off at the proper time), and committed terrible havoc. The foremost engine broke down the immense wooden piles and buffers at the end of the rails, carried away nine or ten feet of the platform, and burst through the station, crushing doors, walls, and every other object in its progress; even the outer wall towards Fisherton was broken down before the train came to a standstill. Mays, the driver, escaped unhurt through the breach formed by the engine, but the fireman (William Symonds) was not so fortunate; he jumped out, and sustained a severe blow on the head, which necessitated his instant removal to the infirmary. The scene within the station was appalling. The driver and fireman of the second engine (Samuel

Nicholson and William Isles) lay smashed between the engine and tender—the head of one and a hand of the other being all that was perceptible to the bystanders. The force of the concussion heaped trucks upon trucks, and the mangled bodies of the animals they contained were scattered about. Both engines continued to throw forth dense volumes of steam, and fears were at one time entertained that the boilers would explode, or that the station would be fired. The station-master, however, acted with great coolness. The Board of Health water-hose having been obtained and attached to a hydrant, a plentiful supply of water was thrown upon the engines to extinguish the fires. This was not accomplished without considerable difficulty, for, although the accident occurred about half-past eight, it was nearly eleven before all danger was over. The passengers sustained no injury beyond a shaking.

A fatal accident has happened at the St. Martin's Baths and Washhouses, near Leicester-square. Joseph Ensor, a man sixty years old, employed at the establishment as an engineer, was engaged last Saturday afternoon in repairing one of the pumps in the Artesian well connected with the building. He had descended on the seat, which was suspended as usual by four ropes. These he had himself fastened; but one of the knots gave way, and the man slipped off, falling on a stage a few feet from the water, and about one hundred and twenty feet from the top. Another of the men employed at the place heard an exclamation of distress from below, and, going down as soon as possible, found Ensor lifeless.

An alarming affair occurred last Saturday night at Batty's Menagerie, Birmingham. A man imprudently approached too near the den of one of the tigers, when the animal suddenly struck him across the face with its paw, inflicting a fearful laceration.

Richard Oliver, foreman of the Watchet paper-mills, where a steam-boiler explosion recently took place, has died in consequence of the injuries he then received. An inquest has been held, and a verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury, who appended to their finding a rider, in which they expressed their conviction that greater caution ought in all cases to be exercised by persons using old and second-hand boilers.

One of those accidents which often occur in mining districts happened on Tuesday (says the *Scotsman*) in the Steneston Cuckoo Pit, near to Holytown, by which two men were killed. Both had been engaged in filling a hutch at the face of the workings, when a portion of the roof gave way, and killed them on the spot.

A serious collision occurred on the South Wales Railway on Monday, soon after midnight. A train of twenty-two waggons of coal, from the Vale of Neath to Swansea, was brought to a stand-still about three-quarters of a mile to the eastward of Landore Station, and very near the crossing of the Swansea Valley Railway at Pwllmawr, in consequence of the breaking of one of the valves of the engine. Owing partly to some misapprehension with respect to the signals, and partly to the steepness of the gradient and the slipperiness of the rails rendering it difficult to stop, another coal train of twenty-eight waggons ran into the obstruction, and the engine-driver and stoker of the advancing train were very seriously injured—so much so that the life of the former is despaired of.

STATE OF TRADE.

The accounts from the manufacturing towns throughout the kingdom continue to furnish remarkable proofs that the trade of the country is upon a basis altogether independent of any pressure in the discount market. There is every sign that whatever may be the rate to which the Bank must ascend in order to keep near the range of the continental biddings for money, it will produce no appreciable effect in checking the general industry or the profits of the country. At Manchester, during the week ending last Saturday, although the market is said to have been inanimate, a fair average business has been transacted, and prices are well maintained. The Birmingham advices describe an improved tone in the iron trade, and a satisfactory amount of employment in the other manufactures of the town. At Nottingham, some interruption has been caused by the occurrence of local holidays; but the extent of it is to be attributed to the general prosperity of the population, which enables them to choose their periods of recreation. It is added that quotations are firm, and that great confidence prevails. In the woollen districts there has been an active demand, and stocks are moderate. The Irish linen-markets have been steady.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week, there has been little change. The total of vessels reported inward was 176, being 9 more than in the previous week. Included in these were 34 with cargoes of grain and flour, 8 with fruit, 6 with sugar, and 2 with tea. The total of ships cleared outward was 132, including 14 in ballast, showing an increase of 13. The number of ships on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 62, being 15 less than at the last account.—*Idem*.

The Royal Mail Steam Company have issued a circular to their shareholders, proposing to establish the long desired connexion between Sydney and Panama. They recommend a fleet of auxiliary screw steamers, and calculate upon a satisfactory return, not only from

the passenger traffic from England, but also from the United States, as well as by obtaining postal allowances from both countries. The line will also possess the advantage of being of incalculable importance to New Zealand. It is calculated that the entire voyage could be performed in 55 days, and the constant experience of the way in which the Australian arrivals *via* the Cape have been anticipated by letters brought by transient sailing vessels to Peru, and thence transmitted across the Isthmus, tends to warrant this conclusion. The capital necessary is 400,000*l.*, and this is suggested to be raised partly by an issue of new shares of 20*l.* each, and partly on debenture. The departures would be monthly, and would be fixed between the times of the Suez line, so as to secure a fortnightly communication.

—*Idem.*

The firm of T. and H. G. Gray and Co., colonial brokers, chiefly in the rice trade, has failed, and the estate will probably go into bankruptcy. The total liabilities are said only to amount to 28,000*l.*, and the dividend expected is 10*s.* in the pound.

A meeting of the depositors in the Royal British Bank took place on Monday evening in St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre, for the purpose of receiving a report prepared by the committee which had been previously appointed. Mr. James Wyld, the mapeller of Charing Cross, presided, and read the report, which complained of the delay in winding up the affairs of the bank caused by the shareholders. Mr. Harding, the interim manager, had stated to Mr. Wyld that he intended to conduct the affairs of the bank without reference to the interests of the shareholders. He also said that he had issued forms for the proof of the debts of the depositors; that he intended himself to carry the proofs before the judge, and thus save the estate the expense of an attorney; that "with all despatch he could not declare a dividend before the end of the year; that, with the information at that time before him, he could not declare a dividend of more than 5*s.* in the pound at the end of the year 1856; that his impression was that the whole affairs of the bank, under the ordinary course, could not be wound up under two years; but that he was prepared to obtain advances on the securities of the bank, and that, if the depositors would accept a composition of 15*s.* in the pound, he would pay a dividend of 5*s.* in the pound in the month of December, 1856, and issue promissory notes under the authority of the Court of Chancery for the payment of 5*s.* in the pound at the end of six months, and 5*s.* in the pound at the end of twelve months." The committee are of opinion that the depositors should be represented equally with the shareholders before the Vice-Chancellor. Mr. Wyld, after reading the report, proceeded to remark that, although five weeks had elapsed since the stoppage of the bank, no steps had been taken by the shareholders to liquidate their claims. "He had no doubt the shareholders imagined they would wear the depositors out by the proceedings in Chancery; but such, he trusted, would not be the case. He had received several letters from persons who stated that many of the shareholders were about to quit England, and would not pay anything unless the depositors consented to receive a compromise. Before they accepted a compromise, it was their duty to look to the assets of the bank. And how did they stand? Mr. Coleman stated that the assets amounted to 288,000*l.* as against 539,031*l.* liabilities. The last call of 50*l.* per share which the bank made before it broke would realize the sum of 64,870*l.*, which, added to the other sum, would give the assets at 476,440*l.*, which, by making a call of 80*l.* per share, would pay all demands in full." Mr. Coleman, who was present, confirmed these statements; and, after some discussion, in the course of which great excitement was caused by a Mr. Maxwell, who spoke in such violent language of the manager of the bank that the chairman checked him, and who stated he had offered an eminent firm of solicitors 200*l.* to bring the directors to the bar of the Old Bailey, a motion in favour of appointing Mr. Coleman official manager was carried by a large majority (though not without considerable uproar, and an amendment in favour of Mr. Chatteris, which was lost), and the meeting separated.

A letter, of which the following is a copy, appeared in all the Glasgow newspapers of Saturday:—"Sir,—Finding that during my absence injurious and unfounded charges have been made against me with reference to the Royal British Bank, I have now only time briefly to say that I will soon and fully refute those charges. I was neither the projector nor founder of that bank. I was, it is true, deluded into the imprudence of becoming a director of it. But after my election, in 1852, for Glasgow, I resolved to have no connexion with any joint-stock company whatever; and I have carried my resolution into effect. Meantime, I am your obedient servant, J. M'GREGOR.—Athenaeum Club, London, Oct. 2."

The trader debtor summonses issued against Mr. Alderman Kennedy and Mr. F. J. Law in connexion with the Newcastle Commercial Bank were brought under consideration in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday. Mr. Commissioner Goulburg deferred his decision until the next day in the case of Mr. Kennedy; but the summons against Mr. Law was dismissed. The same result, on technical grounds, ensued on Wednesday when the summons against Mr. Kennedy was again entered into.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen, Prince Albert, and the royal family and suite will, it is understood, return to Windsor from the North on Wednesday next, the 15th inst. The royal train will proceed from Edinburgh to London by the North-Eastern and Great Northern route.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is travelling *incog.* in the southern parts of England, accompanied by his tutor. He goes about to see the 'lions'; walks a good deal, and travels, like any other mortal, by stage coach or ordinary train.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Queen has appointed the Rev. Richard Cheney Trench, M.A., rector of Itchin-Stoke, Hants, to the deanery of Westminster, vacant by the decease of the Rev. Dr. Buckland. Governor Darling, of Newfoundland, will be the successor at Jamaica of Sir Henry Barkly, appointed Governor of Victoria. Mr. T. B. Burcham, of the Norfolk Circuit, and Recorder of Bedford, is appointed a police magistrate in the metropolitan district in the room of Mr. G. A. A'Beckett, deceased.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ELECT.—Dr. Tait, Dean of Carlisle, recently appointed to the Bishopric of London, took his farewell of the people of Carlisle on Sunday afternoon, when he preached in the cathedral, which was crowded, in spite of the unfavourable weather. As a proof of the esteem in which Dr. Tait is held, it may be stated that a number of the inhabitants have subscribed the sum of 500*l.* towards the erection of a memorial window in the cathedral to the five children which he lately lost by scarlatina.

THE RETIREMENT OF THE BISHOP OF DURHAM.—The Dean and Chapter of Durham have addressed to the retiring bishop a letter expressing their high esteem and regret at parting, their intercourse of more than twenty years having been "uninterrupted by any (even the slightest) disagreement." To this address, Dr. Maltby replied in a similar tone of friendliness and kind feeling.

ARCHDEACON DENISON has filed in the Registry of Bath and Wells a paper of great length, in which he defends his doctrines, and asserts that it is not in his power to make the revocation demanded by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

TRIBUNALS OF COMMERCE.—A public meeting, convened by the Association for the establishment of Tribunals of Commerce, was held last Saturday, at the London Tavern, for the purpose of receiving from Mr. H. Dix Hutton a statement intended to have been submitted to the Congress for commercial reform, recently held at Brussels. Mr. F. Lyne took the chair, and introduced Mr. Hutton, who read a paper of great length, the object of which was to show the radical inefficiency of the ordinary tribunals to administer justice in commercial matters, and the consequent necessity of establishing Tribunals of Commerce.

THE WHITEFRIARS GAS-WORKS.—An examination of officers of the City police, in connexion with the alleged nuisance arising from the gas-works at Whitefriars, took place at a sitting on Tuesday of the City Court of Sewers. Several policemen, including inspectors, sergeants, and constables, gave evidence of the poisonous effect of the vapour on them. Mr. Grey, one of the directors of the company, stated that in a few days a complete answer would be given to the statements; and Mr. Childe, the surgeon to the police force, said that the officers on the beat in which the works are situated were peculiarly healthy, adding, however, that he did not mean to question the veracity of the men. The proceedings were adjourned.

A DISCOURTEOUS CAPTAIN.—Dr. Budd, of Plymouth, recently laid a complaint before the Secretary of the Admiralty against Captain Nias, R.N., Superintendent of the Royal William Victualling Yard, Plymouth. The allegations of Dr. Budd were to the effect that the Captain had treated him, while visiting the yard, with great discourtesy and rudeness, and without any apparent cause. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, having made an inquiry, expressed their regret to Dr. Budd that the occurrence should have taken place, but added that they were sure Captain Nias did not intend to offer any discourtesy, and that the Doctor must feel he permitted himself to use irritating expressions. A letter from the Admiralty to Captain Nias conveys a mild reproof. Dr. Budd has since written a letter to the Admiralty, complaining of "unjust treatment."

THE MALT-TAX.—The repeal of the malt-tax was advocated by Mr. Drummond, M.P., in a speech (full of his accustomed oddity) delivered by him on Wednesday, at the annual meeting of the Surrey Agricultural Association. Mr. Drummond was eloquent in the praise of ale, and in the dispraise of "the nasty, beastly, black compound called London porter." He thought the repeal of the malt-tax, and "plenty of really good beer," would go far to improve the morals of the people.

DINNER TO LORD PANMURE.—The tenantry on the Panmure estates, on Thursday week, entertained the War Secretary at a dinner at Edzell. A pavilion was erected within the grounds round the old castle, and the chair was occupied by Mr. David Robertson. In the course of his after-dinner-speech, Lord Panmure said that he had no doubt the Duke of Newcastle would have done everything that could have been desired for the army if he had not been driven from office by "clamour."—Lord Panmure has since, at the Forfar county meeting, expressed some opinions with reference to "the toll-

bar question." He proposed that the meeting should consider some plan for the consolidation of the township trusts in the county, as had been done in connexion with the roads to London; and he denounced the mode of collecting and spending the statute labour money of the Scotch counties as an example of taxation without representation. The tax also was most unequally and unfairly levied. Resolutions in favour of a change in the existing system were unanimously adopted.

ALLEGED FLOGGING OF PAUPER CHILDREN OF ST. PANCRAS AT WHITECHAPEL UNION.—A meeting of the directors of the poor of St. Pancras was held in the Board-room, Vestry-hall, Camden-town, on Tuesday, for the purpose of receiving the report of a committee appointed relative to the alleged flogging of pauper children belonging to the parish of St. Pancras, formed out at the schools of the Whitechapel Union, Forest-gate. The particulars respecting the alleged flogging were contained in a letter written to Mr. Lawford, a St. Pancras director, by Mr. Potter, the late master of the St. Pancras Union, who had been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Whitechapel authorities. Potter's letter stated that a boy had been flogged till the blood flowed. The committee reported that they had examined Mr. Parton, the schoolmaster by whom the punishment was inflicted, and several other persons, including the boy who was flogged, from whose statements it appeared that the assertion in Potter's letter was unfounded; and Potter himself, on being interrogated, admitted that he did not know that any blood flowed after the beating of the boy Cowan, but that he was told so by another boy. Several directors expressed themselves against corporal punishment of any kind. The report was adopted by a large majority.

POLITICAL MEETING AT GREAT YARMOUTH.—A meeting was held at the Star Hotel, Yarmouth, on Monday evening, for the purpose of receiving Mr. W. T. McCullagh, and Mr. E. W. Watkin (of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway), as candidates for the borough, in the Liberal interest. Both gentlemen expressed themselves in favour of parliamentary reform and decreased expenditure, and denounced the oligarchical nature of our Governments, which compromises us with other nations. Resolutions pledging the meeting to do the utmost to secure the return of the candidates were unanimously passed.

A WATERSPOUT appeared on Sunday evening in the neighbourhood of Oldham. On bursting, it did great damage to the neighbouring embankments and roads, and flooded several mills.

MR. ERNEST JONES'S POLITICAL SONNETS.—An entertainment, half-musical, half-political, was given by Mr. Ernest Jones at St. Martin's Hall, on Tuesday evening. There was a miscellaneous concert in two parts, after each of which Mr. Jones delivered a discourse on the state of the working classes, very eloquent, very passionate, very effective, and containing a large amount of truth, but spoilt, as usual, by the too great vehemence and impulsiveness of the party to which the speaker belongs. Mr. Jones sought to show that the condition of the English working man is worse than that of the Hindoo pariah, the Russian serf, or the African slave; and he supported this view by quoting the various laws which oppress and fetter industry, deprive the poor man of the power of voting for members of Parliament, though he is compelled to pay the taxes, and bind him body and soul to the landed and moneyed aristocracy. He complained of the misappropriation, which, if restored to the people, and properly cultivated, would be able to provide corn for the whole nation; and he alluded to the times of Cressy and Poitiers, when the free yeomanry of England were sufficient to fill her armies with resistless soldiers, while now we are obliged to hire "the scum of Europe" to fight our battles. The poverty now observable among the working order he attributed to the diminution of arable land, and the increase of grass land. Under the present system, the labour that might be usefully employed in producing food merely lowered wages in the manufacturing districts by an unnatural increase of competition, and thus, while on the one hand food was becoming scarcer, the means of purchasing it were becoming more scanty. Mr. Jones stated that he was no communist, no anarchist; he desired to have peaceable, constitutional reform; but, if this be refused, a violent struggle must ensue.—Among the songs which were sung in the course of the evening was one the words of which were by Mr. Ernest Jones himself. It was called "The Song of the Lower Classes," and was full of burning sarcasm and fiery indignation.

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE'S ART COLLECTIONS.—The late English ambassador at Naples has bequeathed to the British Museum his valuable collection of fictile vases, bronzes, mosaics, gems, marbles, medals, specimens of ancient glass, ornaments of gold and silver, &c. This collection was made by the deceased minister during his official residence at Naples, where the various objects of art just enumerated still remain. The present diplomatic difficulties with the King will probably prevent their transmission to England just now.

THE EARL OF ALBEMARLE AND HARVEST HOMES.—The Earl of Albemarle has reappeared as a harvest home reformer at a meeting held at Winfarthing, near Dins, Norfolk. Addressing a party of labourers with their wives and children, the Earl observed:—"At Banham, I said that largess had heard its death knell, and I think,

after the meeting which we have seen to-day, and the descriptions of other meetings which we have read in the papers, that that prophecy is verified. A hundred years ago, and I am afraid a much shorter time since, there was an expression very common, 'as drunk as a lord.' It was a true proverb, for there were very few sober lords in those days. Now, however, the only drunken lords are the 'lords of the harvest,' and I hope that henceforth it will be as difficult to find a drunken harvest lord as a drunken Parliamentary lord." After lauding the now prevalent custom of landlords—and, he added, landlords—attending harvest homes, he denied an assertion that had been made with respect to him, namely, that he wished to force labourers into being teetotallers. What he wished was that they should use, and not abuse, God's gifts. "One point more," continued the Earl. "Let me express the gratification I feel in presiding over a meeting at which, if anything, women predominate. I always feel more at home when I have got the ladies about me. It is on their account and on account of their children that I have denounced the disgraceful system of men getting drunk at the ale-house and leaving their children starving at home. But, women, you also have a duty to perform, and mind you do it. Make your homes agreeable; make the attractions of home so great that your husbands will not wish to go to the public-house."

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.—Tuesday being the day appointed for the reassembling of Parliament, the formality of a further adjournment was gone through; her Majesty, by means of her Commissioners, further proroguing the two Houses to Thursday, the 13th of November.

CONVOCATION.—The Convocation of the Prelates and Clergy of the province of Canterbury was on Wednesday prorogued, pursuant to the Royal writ, in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, by the Vicar-General, Dr. Twiss, under a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury, to Friday, November 14.

EDUCATION.—A meeting was held at the Polytechnic Institution on Monday evening, to inaugurate a series of evening classes which are about to be formed in connexion with the Society of Arts. The chair was taken by Dr. Booth, treasurer of that society. Some addresses were delivered and votes agreed to, and the meeting then broke up.

ADULT EDUCATION.—The third annual meeting of the Hants and Wilts Adult Education Society, and the conference of kindred associations in union with it, were held at Basingstoke, on Tuesday, in the Town Hall. The objects of the society are to promote the establishment of literary and scientific institutions, libraries, and reading-rooms, and to encourage a spirit of inquiry and improvement by the delivering of lectures on literary and scientific subjects throughout the counties of Hants and Wilts. There was a numerous attendance of clergymen, and the company included the Bishop of Winchester, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Dean of Hereford, the Hon. and Rev. J. Best, the Rev. Canon Woodroffe, the Rev. Canon Jacob, the Rev. A. Wodehouse, the Mayor of Basingstoke, Mr. W. Portal, Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Chute, Mr. H. Cole, Mr. J. E. Jervoise, &c. The Dean of Hereford was voted into the chair, and addressed the meeting at great length. The other speakers were the Hon. and Rev. S. Best, the Bishop of Winchester, Mr. Edwin Chadwick, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rev. Mr. Kingsley, &c., who enlarged on the necessity of encouraging education among agricultural labourers, and young men generally. As an instance of the extraordinary ignorance often found among clerks in Government offices, Mr. Chadwick observed, in alluding to the new system of competitive examination:—"No doubt, the new examinations, such as they were, served to arrest such appointments as that of an hon. young gentleman who, being asked by a reverend examiner, a member of the association, to name Burke's principal work, innocently replied, 'The Peerage and the Baronetage;' or such young gentlemen as one who got an appointment as a clerk in a high office of state, who, as an official friend in that same office told him (Mr. Chadwick), was found addressing a letter for the Archbishop of Canterbury directed to 'John Elbor, Esq.' (A laugh.) The nomination examinations might stop the more egregious examples by which the vicious and corrupt system was made scandalous, and in effect, the present fragmentitious and departmental examinations might be made to prolong it. He warned them against the delusive character of the packed competitions of nominated candidates, and urged the necessity of increased exertions on the part of all concerned in education throughout the country to prevent the evasions of the principle of open competition, and to ensure the great educational and social results already indicated." A presentation of prizes took place, and the day concluded with a dinner in the evening.

CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS TO LORD BELPER.—A special meeting of the Derby town council was held on Tuesday, for the purpose of adopting a congratulatory address to Lord Belper on his elevation to the peerage. This was done unanimously.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL and family have arrived at Turin.

THE NEW FREE TRADE HALL AT MANCHESTER.—The inauguration of the new Free Trade Hall took place on Wednesday evening at half-past six o'clock. A public meeting was held in the grand hall, and the cere-

mony terminated with a ball, for which the assembly-room, the drawing-room, and the whole suite of reception-rooms were thrown open. Admission to the meeting and to the ball was restricted to the holders of tickets, which were issued by the committee to the shareholders and their friends. At the commencement of the meeting, which was presided over by Mr. George Wilson, the chairman of the late Anti-Corn-Law League, there was but a spare attendance in the body of the hall, and, although subsequently the number of the audience was gradually augmented, many of the invited guests did not arrive until the proceedings were drawing to a close, and the time for the commencement of the ball approached. Among the gentlemen on the platform were Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P., Mr. J. Heywood, M.P., Mr. W. Brown, M.P., Mr. Kershaw, M.P., Mr. Brotherton, M.P., Mr. J. Cheetham, M.P., and Mr. T. Barnes, M.P. Mr. Bright, the colleague of Mr. Gibson in the representation of the city, was prevented from attending by the state of his health. Invitations had also been sent to Mr. Cobden, Mr. C. P. Villiers, Mr. Fox, and General Thompson; but, from various causes, those gentlemen were unable to attend. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, briefly recounted the circumstances that had led to the erection of the building, which it was intended to render available for the purposes of public meetings, of concerts, and of other entertainments to persons of all sects and parties. Mr. Milner Gibson moved a vote of thanks to the proprietors (part of the guests), and addressed the audience on the chief political topics of the day, adding that his own views had not undergone any change. The resolution was agreed to, and other resolutions, entirely of a complimentary nature, were subsequently proposed and adopted. The other speakers were—Mr. Cheetham, M.P., Mr. William Brown, M.P., and Mr. Heywood, M.P.

THE HINCKFORD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION held its annual meeting at Castle Headingham on Monday, when the chairman (Mr. Ducane, the new candidate for the representation of the northern division of Essex, Sir John Tyrrell having announced his intention to resign), Mr. Majendie, Major Beresford, and Mr. Hamilton, expounded their views on the prospects and principles of Conservatism. The major had a fling at our weekly contemporary, the *Press*, which he denounced for denouncing the denouncers of Maynooth. Such is Conservatism!

MR. NAPIER, M.P., AT KENWICK.—A lecture was delivered, on the evening of Friday week, in the lecture-hall of the Kenwick Mechanics' Institute, by the Right Hon. Joseph Napier, LL.D., M.P., on "Labour and Knowledge in Connexion with the Condition and Prospects of the Working Classes." The Rev. T. Wilson, B.A., president of the Institute, presided. The object of the lecture was to show that the condition of the lower orders may be elevated by education and religious training.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN SPAIN.—The Protestant Alliance has brought under the notice of Lord Cardigan the case of Señor de Mora, a Spaniard, who has been thrown into prison, and handed over to the "Tribunal of the Faith," for having become a Protestant.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—A somewhat serious difficulty has arisen in reference to the election of a minor canon of St. Paul's Cathedral. Some days since, the Rev. E. G. Beckwith died, and this created a vacancy among the College of Minor Canons. The remaining minor canons claim, according to what they state is immemorial custom, to nominate two candidates, one of whom shall be selected by the dean and chapter; but the dean and chapter say the minor canons have no such right, and that they must not be allowed to exercise it.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, October 11.

NAPLES.

THE political trials are concluded, and the following sentence has been delivered:—Mignonna has been condemned to banishment for life, Mauro Dangelis for twelve years, and the priest Decico for two years. The monk Roggero and another have been set at liberty.

The King and the Duke de Calabria arrived at Naples from Gaeta on the 30th ult. General Martini has been received by the King, and at the conclusion of the conference a Council of Ministers assembled.

The report of the intended despatch of a Russian fleet to the Bay of Naples is referred to in a letter from Genoa of the 5th, which says:—"Long before the publication of the Gortschakoff circular, the Emperor Alexander II. had resolved on sending a flotilla into the Mediterranean, but it was merely to have it near his august mother, and to secure to her an asylum in the not very probable event of a revolutionary movement. This is the reason of the Russian vessels coming from Cronstadt."

ARREST OF ROBSON, THE CRYSTAL PALACE FORGER.

William James Robson, recently a clerk in the Crystal Palace Company, but who fled in consequence of the frauds which he is supposed to have committed having been discovered, was arrested a day or two ago on the

Continent. After a week's concealment in London, he made his way, disguised, to France; thence to Belgium, Germany, and Hanover, and ultimately to Copenhagen. There he sojourned at the principal hotel for a day and night, and then proceeded to Helsingborg, where he arrived on the 5th inst. From this place he proceeded to Elsinore, where he remained until Sunday last, and on that day went on board a steamer to return to Helsingborg across the Sound. On the steamer reaching her destination at Helsingborg, the attention of the authorities there was called to Robson by the singular fact that his means were so straitened that he had not money to pay his fare for the trip; and this led to his detection and final apprehension. He described himself as an Englishman travelling for pleasure, and gave the name of Edward Smith. When asked by the authorities for his passport, he was obliged to confess he had none. This being against the law of Denmark, he was detained; and it was then suspected he was no other than Robson, a description of whom had been sent to Copenhagen. Mr. Lund, the English detective officer, was telegraphed to, and he at once sent a sergeant to Copenhagen. There is no convention between this country and Denmark which could enable the sergeant to arrest Robson there; but the Danish Government ordered him out of the country for the offence of travelling without a passport. The police officer followed till he could legally secure him; and Robson was yesterday (Friday) placed at the bar of the Lambeth police court. He was wrapped in a large cloak, and seemed very much depressed. Evidence having been received, the case was adjourned.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

A singular and very perplexing contest of jurisdictions in connexion with the Royal British Bank has commenced. A fiat in bankruptcy having been issued against the bank, one of the messengers of the Bankruptcy Court, with several of his assistants, proceeded, under instructions from Mr. Lee, the official assignee, and Messrs. Linklater, his solicitors, to the head office, in Threadneedle-street, and, after serving the adjudication of the Court, entered on the premises, and took formal possession of the bank. On arriving there, they posted up the adjudication; but it was immediately removed by the officers of the interim manager. Mr. Wintle, one of the assistant messengers, proceeded to seize the cash bags in the hands of the clerks, but was made to surrender them. Mr. Harding, the interim manager appointed by the Vice-Chancellor, told the messengers that he refused to recognize the authority of the Court of Bankruptcy. An armistice having been agreed upon, the interim manager immediately proceeded to serve copies of the order of the Court of Chancery on the Court of Bankruptcy and on the official assignee, and also proceeded to the various branches of the bank in different parts of the metropolis, in each of which, to the surprise of the previous occupants, he found a messenger of the Court of Bankruptcy in possession, with whom he dealt as he had done with those in Threadneedle-street. Thus matters remained up to yesterday (Friday). It is stated that the chief messenger from the Bankruptcy Court insists on keeping possession; and it is understood that the matter will be brought before the Vice-Chancellor, with a view to settling the dispute. The Bankruptcy Commissioner issued a summons against Mr. Harding yesterday.

DENMARK.—Advices from Copenhagen of the 4th state that the Ministerial crisis was still undetermined. The Diet of the monarchy was opened at Copenhagen on that day by royal rescript. In the elections which followed, M. Rotwitt was chosen President. The Diet was then prorogued until the 1st of December.

THE SUBSCRIPTION FOR ITALY.—We are glad to announce that the English subscription for the guns of Alexandria, and the ten thousand muskets, is carried on jointly—a proof that the liberal Italian party is animated by no unworthy jealousies of Piedmont. We shall publish next week all the lists of subscribers that are sent in before Friday.

ACCIDENT (YESTERDAY).—An accident, attended with loss of life, occurred at the Upper Globe Repairing Dock, Rotherhithe, early yesterday morning. A number of men were engaged in shipping a mast on board a schooner. The mast suddenly broke in two, and fell against some gearing, on which George Chappell and William Randall, shipwrights, were at work. They fell from a height of seventy feet, and Chappell died almost immediately after being extricated, while Randall received such injuries that his recovery is considered hopeless.

LATEST FROM AMERICA.—The commotion in Kansas continues. On the 19th of September, Lane's men fired upon the United States troops under Governor Geary and General Smith, at a crossing in the Kaw River, wounding several; the troops returned the fire, killing about forty of Lane's men, and taking about ninety-five prisoners.—Mr. Banks, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, has made a speech at New York in favour of Fremont, in which he denounced "the mean and scandalous policy declared in the Ostend Conference, and reaffirmed, blindly and darkly, in the Cincinnati platform." The speech was delivered in front of the Merchants' Exchange, to an immense and very enthusiastic audience.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We do not undertake to return rejected communications. No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of their merits.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1856.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

THE SIGN FROM FRANCE.

WE have another glimpse into the Neapolitan mystery, concerning which misinformation has been unusually profuse. The three Governments—France, Austria, and England—have been engaged in a new course of reasoning with the King of NAPLES. This time the argument does not appear to have been so ineffectual as formerly. So far as the cipher of NAPOLEON is intelligible, it means that if Naples will yield, or consent to consider about yielding, one or two points, France will take care that English intervention does not become a danger to the Governments of Italy. The secrecy of St. Cloud does not hide that fact. The alliance is a partnership of suspicion. Nevertheless, the public will do well carefully to disbelieve all the positive statements afloat as to the settlement of the Neapolitan question. It is not settled. Were King FERDINAND to propose that his plenipotentiary should attend a deliberative Congress at Paris—a scheme to which Austria and France are favourable—that would imply, not the adjustment of affairs in his dominions, but an avowal that many other affairs elsewhere are in a condition so disturbed as to render a European council necessary for their settlement. Any distinct reference, however, to such a Congress is premature. We have long foreseen it, but no one is in a position to say when, or with what objects, it may assemble. At present it is more essential to discriminate between fallacious versions of the Neapolitan affair and versions which, though necessarily less complete in their outlines and details—the *quid nunc* abhors a vacuum—may be accepted as authoritative and, so far as they go, precise.

Many circumstances combine to explain the shrinking attitude of the French Government. The man who has “raised to an unprecedented height the reputation and prosperity of France,” finds himself, in October, 1856, face to face with a panic, with scarcity, with general despondence, and in the near prospect of an insolvent exchequer. The provinces begin to understand how they have been preyed upon for the benefit of the capital; the capital itself, in addition to the exhaustion of public credit, is reminded, morning after morning, by spectral placards, that vast numbers of the working classes are still organized, and that their organization is directed against the Government. The general population, of all classes, is anxious, restless, conscious of coming trouble. The Empire, haunted by the apparitions of Cayenne, first prevaricates, through its police, in reply to M. LOUIS BLANC, and then prevaricates, through its Minister of Finance, in reply to the universal murmur, accusing it of bankruptcy.

In this position, the French Government,

faltering in a manner that proves either hesitation in the mind of LOUIS NAPOLEON, or an imperfect understanding between him and his Ministers, first decided upon an armed demonstration against Naples, then delayed it, and now, without having induced the British Cabinet to decide against it, clings tenaciously to the idea of a compromise. In London, it seems that a less peremptory tone has been adopted, though the squadron still waits for orders. No political concessions are now claimed from FERDINAND; the intervention is described as a pure act of humanity; and it is not impossible that upon this narrow ground an agreement may be effected which will be expected to relieve England from the necessity of challenging Russia, France from the dangerous contagion of civil war, Austria from an Italian crisis, and the Western allies together from the embarrassment of the Piedmontese claims. Here, the practical fallacy consists in the notion that, upon the decision of the deliberating Governments, the movements of the Italian people depend. A Congress, convened at Paris, may undertake to give securities for the tranquillity of Europe. But let us be assured that the Italians do not count upon the assistance of official England in their projected struggle for independence. The whole peninsula is preparing for an outbreak; from Otranto to the Alps, the common enemy may at any moment be startled by an insurrection. Neither the French nor the Austrian Governments, neither the British nor the Piedmontese, know where the danger is most imminent, and it is the policy of the national party to keep them in ignorance. Further than this, reserve is unnecessary, and would be ineffectual. To tell the military Governments that they are on the eve of a revolutionary war, is to tell them nothing. They hear it from every quarter; they heard it at the Conferences of Paris. It is the rumour of English offices and arsenals. But the Italian nation, also, has its peculiar knowledge. It knows that France and Austria are rivals in Italy, that England cannot take arms with either of those powers against Piedmont, that Piedmont may be impelled into a national war, that an Italian revolt within the dominions of the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH would be a signal to his Cisalpine provinces, that Sicily, once cut off from Naples, has always the means of overpowering her garrisons, and they foresee that, whatever delays may intervene, their own opportunity will at length arrive. The best information we can obtain from Italy is to the effect that Count CAVOUR fully understands that he may be drawn into a conflict against the stranger, that the national party is resolved to act with the utmost discretion, and that if any miserable failures occur, either in Naples, or on the Austrian frontier, they will probably be initiated by the police. It is very important, though difficult, to distinguish between a genuine and a forged insurrection. The Italians understand these artifices too well to be deluded into despair by unsuccessful outbreaks that are only contrived to discourage them.

We join earnestly with those who would discountenance premature attempts which are sure to be abortive. The sign from France means, it is perfectly true, that the influence of the Empire will be exerted against every form of revolution. Lord PALMERSTON, it is also true, is by habit an enemy of real liberalism on the Continent. But we must take into account events and probabilities. As long as we have foreign relations, we must be concerned in foreign politics. Movements will take place, whether we support them or not. There will be intervention, there will be a crisis, and, in some shape, England will in-

terfere. The public, consequently, will not be deceived into the belief that it has nothing to do but to ignore the troubles and agitations of the Continent, in order to escape from all danger and all responsibility.

BRITISH RIGHTS OVER WIVES AND PAUPERS.

THE parish is exalted just now. Its guardians and its clergy appear as the defenders of British rights and British morals. Marylebone stands up stoutly for local independence and the right of girl beating. The girls are ‘abandoned’ girls, and the humane guardians do not like to abandon the unfortunate; so they let them be caned. Discipline must, of course, be enforced; and what chance had the master and his two men, unarmed with sticks, against enemies so formidable as the girls. The Poor Law Commissioners have some romantic notions of chivalry, and object to the flogging of females; but does not even Mrs. JAMESON say that the chivalrous worship of women was only one disguise of female subjection? The authorities of Marylebone scorn to veil the slavery of the ‘frail sect’ in the flimsy veil of chivalry; they are for women’s rights and the equality of the sexes; so they give the girls their due—as they would the Devil; and recognize the equality of the sexes before the law of the cudgel. Besides, the Poor Law authorities are going beyond their province. The parish dedicated to St. Mary la Bonne, in which Magdalenas are bastinadoed, is under a local act, and the Poor Law Board have as little right to interfere in the New-road as France and England have to interfere in Naples. The cases are exactly parallel. The worst that ACUTI did was to use the stick, and the master is only the ACUTI of Marylebone. The guardians have governed their Naples according to their judgment, and if the Commissioners overrule them, what is it but proclaiming the law of the strong over the weak?—a cowardly law which the guardians abominate. They vindicate local independence, and in that noble cause they are prepared to fall. If there is a noble spectacle, it is a great parish struggling with adversity; a brave people “warred on by cranes,” and meeting death rather than deserting principle—or GREEN, the porter that caned the girls.

Paneras is scarcely behind; it has been vindicating social order among its boys à la Naples; but the vindication of authority and local rights has not been carried so far. St. Paneras vacillates, and only withholds its sternest censure, because, when the children were flogged, no blood was drawn. But what if it had been? Is the blood of a pauper boy to be compared with the blood of soldiers, of heroes, and of martyrs, that we should think it so precious? St. Paneras has not equalled Marylebone, but it has had its merits.

“Spare the rod, and spoil the child,” said the wisest of men: a teacher who derives his lesson from the source of all wisdom, gives us a further moral on the same pattern—“Spare the rod, and spoil the wife.” The magistrates of Whitehaven have been vulgar enough to commit one JAMES SCOTT to a month’s imprisonment for brutally beating his wife. The wife, indeed, pleaded for her husband: she would not press for punishment, she said, insidiously, if her husband would not treat her so again; but he refused, and the magistrates were guilty of the gross persecution which we have mentioned. We say persecution, because SCOTT had a just reason for the eager persuasion which he had used. He simply wished his wife to attend a proper place of worship—namely, the place at which he attended himself. What could be more proper, more considerate. The wife rebelled,

and SCOTT exercised his right at common law. It would be worth while to try the right of the magistrates to restrain him in the exercise of his conjugal authority, and we propose a subscription, to be opened in Marylebone and Pancras. No doubt several officers of the army, and probably Conservative members in both Houses of Parliament would subscribe. The treasurer of the Husband Defence Fund should be the Reverend GEORGE BIRD, of Whitehaven, who has already given to poor SCOTT the most admirable advice and support. The congregation which that earnest religionist was urging his wife to join was that of the Reverend GEORGE BIRD, who has since delivered a course of lectures on the subject of SCOTT'S conviction. MR. BIRD completely justifies SCOTT: it is, he argues, a man's duty to rule his household; if the wife refuse to obey his orders, the law of God authorizes him to enforce obedience by beating her. We do not see how this logic can be resisted in a Christian country. True, the wife might suffer from the abrupt contact with the cane; but how can that suffering be set against her eternal welfare? The affectionate regard for her eternal welfare would justify any course necessary to promote the object. That her eternal welfare would have been secured by bringing her to the congregation of BIRD is evident. The eloquent SPRAGGON lately denounced those lukewarm ministers who suffer their congregations to cool, and who afterwards have their parishes "come howling after them into hell." It is evident that BIRD will not have Whitehaven howling after him anywhere on the score of neglecting its spiritual welfare. It may howl after him, but he will be safe with SCOTT, in the blessed election of the righteous, and wicked Whitehaven may howl at them, but it will follow other leaders. The magistrates committed poor SCOTT to prison, but whither will the magistrates go?

Disorder, indeed, is rampant in this wicked land. It now appears that Mrs. CHERRY, whose reverend husband lately took her up with the aid of a policeman, in order to bear her home, as it were, for the second time as a bride, has been again abandoned by the contumacious woman, and it is hinted that he is about to proceed legally for "restitution of conjugal rights." This, of course, cannot be refused to him. Riot has made great progress amongst us, but we are not yet come to such a pitch of morality, that if a husband advance his claim, we can refuse to drag back the truant to his affection. She may protest, she may entreat, she may bewail, she may shriek, she may struggle; but law and morals must be executed. ALICE LEROY showed that such things are done frequently in the interest of men like 'the Old Marquis,' in establishments which are any but models of legality; and shall it be said that the Law refuses to moral men a support which Lawlessness gives to an 'Old Marquis?' Marylebone, Pancras, and BIRD are witnesses that some respect for law still prevails in this unhappy land.

THE SIXTH PART OF THE WORLD.

THERE is some truth in the phrase which foreigners are accustomed to use with respect to England. We do live, it may be said, in a sixth part of the world. We are not Asiatic, or African, or American, or Australasian. Then what are we? We can scarcely be called European. The difficulty is popularly recognized in the employment of the word "continental" to signify un-English. But we are not the only islanders of the European world; we are distinct; we look out upon Europe; we are afraid of its ideas, its interests, its troubles. We are glad to see it quiet. If, in a neighbouring country, political agitation exists, it is unpleasant to us; we desire to see the

strife of parties stayed; we have little sympathy for any wretches who may be shot at a continental Peterloo. We have had our Leagues and Unions, but we suspect their benefits abroad. They are not continental, but English, and we cannot imagine how England and the Continent can have anything in common. We suspect that there exists in England a feeling of supreme superiority over the rest of Europe. We are pleased to be told, by the *Débats*, that a universal system of free trade would place Germany and France at our feet. Possibly, Englishmen are in the right, and the *Débats* is candid, not ironical. But it is not to be forgotten that foreigners, for the most part, entertain the same sense of their superiority that we do. There is then just a possibility, if we may insinuate it, that both are wrong, and that England is as little inferior to the other countries of Europe, as the other countries of Europe are to England. They may be different without being better or worse. We have not always been what we are, yet our national conceit was at least as overpowering in the degraded era of the GEORGES as it is at present. In truth, we may be said to have moderated our self-esteem since we became civilized. At all events, a nation's opinion of itself is not a correct standard, or England would stand no chance in comparison with Burmah.

If the Continent were set free from the vast network of industrial and commercial restrictions inseparable from a system of absolute government, we should probably become more European in our character and feelings. Foreigners, we know, are apt to say that England is interested in the slavery of Germany, Italy, and France. To establish political freedom in those countries would be, they think, to establish an industrial and commercial competition that would overwhelm us. Intelligent Englishmen will at once perceive the spurious cynicism of this idea. We sell our manufactures, not to oppress but to free nations. In France we are met by tariffs, in Germany by tariffs, in Italy almost by prohibitions. We supply America, Australia, New Zealand, the open ports of India and China; we trade, it is true, with every European country, but the doubling of our trade with Europe would not be a compensation for the loss of our trade with the United States of America. Instead of dreading the freedom of the Continent, we should regard it as a promise of new prosperity to ourselves. Who, indeed, are the friends of European liberty? Our artisans, our manufacturers. Where are its enemies? Among our landowners, our aristocracy. The English nation has a direct interest in the political welfare of every nation on the Continent. And this is a sufficient answer to those who would persuade the public not to engage itself in watching the play of diplomacy abroad.

Our national genius, our history, our constitution separate us, in a great degree, from the continent of Europe; we are physically and morally insular; but we are not so from interest. What interest, for example, would lead us to prefer, in Italy, an aggregate of miserable states shut in by protective tariffs, to a country, with a free population of twenty-five millions, multiplying along the coast such ports as the port of Genoa?

THE NAPOLEON OF WESTMINSTER.

LOUIS NAPOLEON has demolished fifteen hundred houses in Paris, has constructed six thousand of a more magnificent order, has given, in the process, employment to the working classes, and has converted the heart of Paris into one of the most magnificent quarters that any city in the world can pre-

sent. Sir BENJAMIN HALL seems to propose a somewhat similar course for Westminster—a grand removal of the rubbish which encumbers the ground of the ancient city on the site of the marsh between Westminster and the Isle of Thorney; and then a rebuilding of the official quarter, which would greatly improve the aspect of the metropolis, would be the key to main further improvements, and would give employment to a great number of workmen, with splendid opportunities for our architects. There is, however, a difference between the two great master masons: LOUIS NAPOLEON has no Parliament to check him; Sir BENJAMIN HALL must work by permission of the House of Commons, and he has perhaps to contend against some other drawbacks.

Let us see what he has to do. In the first place, some of the new offices have to be rebuilt. This is absolutely necessary. The Foreign Office is a place not much better than a good-sized lodging-house—it cannot compare with a first-class inn; and it is in such deplorable repair, that public documents of the greatest value are in constant danger of injury. The old 'War Office' has been developed into the 'War Department.' It is at present in temporary lodgings, behind Whitehall, and it wants a home. But, besides buildings for these offices, it has long been proposed to concentrate the twenty chief Government offices on the spot of ground lying between the corner of St. James's Park at Downing-street and Bridge-street, Westminster. It is very desirable to establish ready and direct communication between the Parliament and the public offices, between which some members of the Government have to divide their time. For this purpose, various designs have been proposed. For a year or two Government have, we believe, had a plan by an eminent architect for building a grand quadrangle, with one end at Downing-street, back towards the Park, and front facing the line that continues Whitehall. All persons who have considered the subject agree that the old private buildings which clog the space between the Park and the river—most of which are of a very ugly and profitless character—should be removed; and several persons have suggested plans which would substitute an entirely different class of building,—opening the side of the river, abolishing VANDRUGH'S ugly building of the Horse Guards, finishing Whitehall on its original plan, doubling the Admiralty, and placing the chief of the Government offices on the site of Downing-street, Fludyer-street, &c. This would make a continuous series of official palaces from Westminster Abbey to Charing-cross, with a grand entrance into the Park, and a side open to the river. On entering office, Sir BENJAMIN HALL found all these dreams unexecuted, Downing-street in a tumbledown state, and his office encumbered with plans having no prospect of fulfilment.

He found something else. He found old Westminster-bridge growing too shaky for the traffic, and new Westminster-bridge rising from its foundations under water, in the hands of a contractor who could not carry out his engagements, and who soon became bankrupt. It had been designed in a manner little calculated to secure stability, and it had become liable to botching even before the foundations had risen above the water level. And since the bridge is to be rebuilt, a previous question is reopened. Has it been placed at the best site? Of all the traffic across it, two-thirds comes to Charing-cross, and one-third goes south-west towards Pimlico—scarcely any of it straight on. The traffic, therefore, would naturally be divided between two bridges—a minor bridge further up the river at Lambeth horse-ferry, and a

grand bridge at the natural transit close to the central point of western London, Charing-cross. There are other reasons for this point: it is close to the South-Western Railway Station; it would open into the new road which will connect all the bridges on that side; and it would be a natural point of crossing the river for a large proportion of that traffic towards the London-bridge station which now chokes up the thoroughfares of the City.

If LOUIS NAPOLEON were on the ground, he would say,—Sweep away those old and worthless houses, construct the public offices, place one bridge at Lambeth and one bridge at Charing-cross; and then not only would Westminster become what it should be, but a magnificent district would be called into existence on the other side of the Charing-bridge. Sir BENJAMIN HALL evidently sees what might be done, but he must work in fear of the House of Commons. He has taken, then, a middle course.

He has invited from the architects of England and foreign countries three designs—one for the new Foreign Office, one for the new War Department, and one for a plan of the whole future improvement, including the communications across the river. These plans will be exhibited in Westminster Hall at Easter next; 5000*l.* will be distributed among the authors of the seventeen best designs in sums ranging from 800*l.* to 100*l.*; and already there is a great eagerness to enter into the competition. The designs, indeed, are only the commencement. There will be the execution of the immediate buildings, and then the execution of the subsequent improvements.

So far good. But there is more than a chance that the whole of the said excellent scheme may be frustrated. There are local interests which will be as tenacious of the lumber in old Westminster, down to its condemned bridge, as the farmers were tenacious of the Corn Laws. A new free bridge would damage the property of the Hungerford suspension bridge, which would be entirely superseded. And possibly certain architects may think fit to defend the condemned design for the new Westminster-bridge.

But that is not all. There are statesmen who are jealous of any rising man. Sir BENJAMIN HALL is a rising man. We doubt very much, from present signs, whether he will be supported by the whole Government. He will of course be claimed as a credit to the Government, if he should succeed. But if there should be any obstruction to his course,—if the vested interests can raise opposition in the House of Commons, Ministers will probably treat him as they did Mr. LOWE, when he brought in his sensible bill for the abolition of local dues on shipping,—will imprison him in a select committee, and lay him, like the giant under Sicily, moveless beneath the weight of a parliamentary Blue Book. The public interest, indeed, is entirely with Sir BENJAMIN, but how easily the public can be mystified! The only question we have is, whether the ambitious member for Marylebone will be so easily or contentedly *Glenelg'd*.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

"The people of England," Mr. ROEBUCK says, "may compel their Government to act wisely." Mr. ROEBUCK, addressing the Brighton public by letter, avows his belief that a united and independent people in the Danubian Principalities would serve the cause of human liberty against the surrounding barbarism of Austria, Russia, and Turkey. But the Government of England, he adds, which *might* be compelled by the people to act wisely, is controlled by the despotic Go-

vernments of Europe. We are afraid that the member for Sheffield touches a sore truth here. The British Cabinet is blamed for every act of complicity with the Cabinets of other countries; but is the full force of English opinion brought to bear at any time upon the foreign policy of the Administration? If it were, there is no conceivable reason why the principles of our diplomacy should not be as liberal as the principles of our domestic legislation. There is no doubt that, were the nation willing to lose its control over the Executive, the Executive would be willing to govern without that control. Statesmen assume naturally whatever power is conceded to them. We, as a people, insist upon Constitutional Government, and we enjoy it; we do not insist upon a system of liberal diplomacy, in harmony with our character, and we do not have it. Our Parliament is simply invited, when matters of foreign policy are under discussion, to ratify the decisions of the Cabinet. We know nothing of our Ministers' intentions until they have been carried into effect. The Brighton public could understand these points, and appeared to feel the absurdity of the position in which England is placed with reference to foreign affairs.

The absurdity is strongly exemplified by the actual state of affairs in the valley of the Danube. The Western Powers have failed to procure the removal of the Austrian troops from the Principalities. There is a dilemma. The Commissioners say they cannot fulfil their task until the Austrian army has withdrawn; the Austrian army replies that it cannot withdraw until the task of the Commissioners has been fulfilled. Meanwhile they govern the provinces upon the most arbitrary principles. Mr. MONTAGUE SCOTT stated the literal truth when he said "the freedom of the press was abolished; the chiefs of the liberal party, exiles in England or France, were forbidden to return, the Roumans who had served with the Russian army were brought back in great numbers;" and, these arrangements being made, FUAH EFFENDI, a Turkish agent, under Austrian influence, "proceeded to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants." The palpable fact is, that Austria is conspiring with Turkey to prevent the union of Moldavia and Wallachia. To that union, France, Prussia, Russia, have assented; England wavers; Turkey and Austria are hostile. The wavering of the British Government is attributable to its reluctance to trench upon the privileges of the Ottoman Empire. As Mr. SCHOLEFIELD showed, however, the Ottoman Porte has no historical right whatever to interfere in the domestic government of the Principalities. So long as they are politically divided, so long will there be a battle-ground of jealousy and an open field of aggression in the East of Europe.

THE BIG, BOLD, OLD, BAD MAN.

LORD PALMERSTON has an unfortunate reputation. It has been his fate to be thought infinitely more liberal, powerful, unscrupulous, despotic, corrupt, and chivalrous than any other statesman. He is either at the head of a revolution or at the bottom of a conspiracy. In one corner, a man who knows it for a fact whispers that PALMERSTON has privately agreed to get up a war for the sake of exterminating the revolutionary party; and in another, a gentleman who has the best means of informing himself in political matters has just discovered that Lord PALMERSTON is about to wreak his malice on Austria by stirring up a European conflagration. That the Princess LIEVEN bribed him is well known; it is well known, also, that the Princess LIEVEN did not bribe him; he

personally hated Prince SCHWARZENBERG; Prince SCHWARZENBERG and he were deep in a plot for murdering all the Italian patriots. The apparent contradictions are easily explained. PALMERSTON, bold, bad, big, is an autocrat. His Biarritz is at Broadlands, his Tuileries at Downing-street. How so? Because the QUEEN, being at Balmoral, cannot exert that constitutional influence still supposed to check the rebellious treachery of the Premier, and because his colleagues are out of town. Parliament is not sitting, the Cabinet is dispersed, HER MAJESTY is in the Highlands, and the First Lord of the Treasury is alone, brooding Mephistophelically over plans of war and ravage.

A theory of PALMERSTON is wanted. At present, as popularly described, he is unintelligible. The terror of despots, the contempt of statesmen, the bugbear of nationalities—can he be all at once? Or is it his principal object in life to degrade his countrymen? Really, to believe certain representations would be to believe that Lord PALMERSTON, at twenty years of age, conceived the design of rendering England the scoff of Europe. Accordingly, he began by getting up troubles everywhere and failing to repress them. It mattered not to him that he damaged his reputation; he had a plan to work out, and no sacrifice was too great, provided he could but gratify that morbid hatred of his country which is "the intensest passion of his soul." Thus we may account for all he did in Syria and Spain; it was through his machinations that the army was starved in the Crimea. He sent Sir CHARLES NAPIER to the Baltic. He paid GOREY. Sir JAMES GRAHAM took from him a hint about the brothers BANDIERA. The PACIFICCO affair was concocted in the interest of Russia, PALMERSTON and NICHOLAS being cordially agreed, beforehand, on that subject. Then, Sinope was entirely managed by Lord PALMERSTON. He gave the Principalities to Austria. He manoeuvred to give Kars to MOURAVIEFF. He delayed the capture of Sebastopol. He perpetrated crimes of such a nature that some men considered themselves justified, on the occasion of "a recent trial," in drawing a parallel between the culprit who paid his debts to society at Stafford, and the culprit who never pays his debts, but flourishes in unimpeached turpitude at the head of the British ministry.

At one time it was the fashion to impute every insurrectionary movement to Lord PALMERSTON. Now, it is equally the fashion to ascribe to him the evils of every despotic intrigue. As once he was more anarchical than MAZZINI, so, at present, he is more absolute than ALEXANDER. And all from hatred of his country and the Turks. Not that he is friendly to Russia, or to France, or to Austria. But he has an inborn bitterness against Turkey, and this, aided by the magic of LIEVEN, prompts him to conspire with Russia for her downfall. Observe his malignant energy with respect to Moldavia and Wallachia. Observe his obsequious concession of the Isle of Serpents. His dislike of a hussar policy in the Black Sea. His deadly and vindictive feeling towards the Italian people, evinced by his encouragement of the King of NAPLES. You may satisfy yourself that PALMERSTON is working the ruin of England, and that he has already marked the arch of London Bridge which must be left standing, that he may exult arm-in-arm with the New Zealander, over the perdition of his country.

LORD CARDIGAN'S CHARGE AT HOME.

If officers and gentlemen are to conduct their affairs of honour in the newspaper, they should at least learn how to fence with

the pen, and how to fire paper at each other. One of the most haughty of knights is Lord CARDIGAN,—and one of the most bungling of combatants. We know none who can compare with him for skill in avoiding a retort, except Lord LUCAN. He seems incapable of knowing when he is hit, and to have no other means of reply except identical propositions and vituperation.

The principal charges are these—That being a General of Brigade, the men and horses died under him for want of sufficient attention; that when others were enduring hardships, he was seeking comfort in his private yacht; that when the commonest soldiers were acting together like brothers for the safety of all and the honour of their country, he was scandalously quarreling with his brother-in-law; that he has sneered at that brother-in-law, his General of Division, for ordering a charge of which the higher officer saw the danger, but which he did not share; that Lord CARDIGAN was in the van in the charge, and also in the van in the retreat.

What are Lord CARDIGAN's replies on these points? Colonel BUCK pronounces them to be most unsatisfactory, and the public agrees with Colonel BUCK in observing that Lord CARDIGAN does not explain away the facts, nor answer the last question at all.

Colonel BUCK contrasts the career of this 'noble' Lord, this 'gallant' officer, this knightly cavalier, with the career of Colonel MORRIS, who rose entirely through gallantry and merit; and he reminds us of Lord CARDIGAN's past exploits—his espionage on Captain WATHEN and the court-martial, followed by the captain's acquittal and Lord CARDIGAN's removal from the command of the regiment. Colonel BUCK might have added the cases of the black bottles, of an officer made to mount and remount many times on parade as punishment, &c. Lord CARDIGAN was always a rigid disciplinarian! His promotion was rapid—for he purchased, and he is a Lord.

Could a commoner do these things? If this were the history of a commoner, would he be promoted? Would he be able to remain in the army? Would Englishmen so much as compare him with a Colonel MORRIS?

Certainly not. But this is only one fruit of the purchase system—that system which places rich men, no matter what their incapacity or their proclivity to Balaklava exploits and hard language, above the head of any man who is 'an officer and a gentleman,' but is not rich. It is a system which literally degrades the true gentlemen, and the country which permits it, below the level of the CARDIGAN.

One good may come out of this correspondence. In his rejoinder, Colonel BUCK says:—

"I endeavoured to ascertain from those acquainted with the Horse Guards' machinery how your lordship had attained such rapid promotion.

"I failed in understanding the process, but I was informed your lordship's advancement had cost you \$4,000. If your lordship to secure your advancement was compelled to expend so large a sum, the inference can only be that an officer without such resources would fall in his advancement in the British army, and that money—not merit—decides the destiny of her officers.

"I shall be happy to join ultra Radicals or any other class of politicians during the next session of Parliament in securing for the army a more just and efficient system of promotion."

This is well said—it is thorough-going, hearty. But, what is more, if Colonel BUCK will stick to his purpose, he will succeed. There are others who think with him; already Lord GODERICH has made a beginning in the same direction. If men can talk out with the bold plainness, the manly directness of

GEORGE STUCLEY BUCK, and will persevere, we may see the army relieved of its enervating system of appointments by payment of money, and weeded of its tyrannical martinets, who claim indulgences in war, hector over inferiors, lead in retreat, and reply to the request for explanation of such conduct by scolding like a charwoman detected in retreating irregularly.

A NEW TORY ORGAN.

WITHOUT playing the part of a prospectus, we may announce that negotiations are going forward for the establishment of a new Tory journal. Some of the less prominent members of the country party are the authors of the idea. They conceive that pure Toryism has at present no representative. We shall be glad to see the first number, if only for the sake of knowing what the Conservatism of Major BERESFORD is. If a system of politics could be devised, with Major BERESFORD at one end, and Major REED at the other, and if those gentlemen would be active in the House of Commons, and establish organs of their views, there would be no more dull days in England. Difficult as it is to imagine what Major BERESFORD would accept as Conservatism, it is more difficult to guess what would satisfy Major REED as Liberalism. That romantic member, the pride of the West of England, should publish his autobiography, with an illustration of the family tree, and a catalogue of his public services. We have long desired to know why he is a Member of Parliament, and when it is probable that Lord PALMERSTON will make him a Lord of the Treasury. And this suggests an idea. A new parliamentary companion is wanted, even more than a new Tory journal. It should set forth a list of the constituencies, and represent, with paragraphs affixed to each, to this effect: "Reasons why the said gentleman is a Member of Parliament;" "Reasons why he represents this particular county or borough."

The public would gain much uncommon, and some surprising knowledge, especially if the compiler were to add a record of legislative services, and analysis of the styles of eloquence, favoured by such constituencies as those of Bath and Braintree. To return to the projected Tory journal. It will be judicious on the part of its conductors to establish a private system of communication with at least the principal Cabinets of Europe, that we may learn, week by week, the positive resolves of LOUIS NAPOLEON, the occult motives of the Emperor ALEXANDER, the tenor of Count WALEWSKI's secret instructions, the contents of the last despatch, which no one out of the Cabinet has seen, and various other items of exclusive political information. The new organ, moreover, should make arrangements for procuring the private opinion of Prince ALBERT on all matters of national policy, including his plan for punishing the Great British Constitution after it has undergone its trial and failed. We have long desired to obtain this advantage over our contemporaries, but whether Colonel PHIPPS and Dr. PLAYFAIR are incorruptible, or whether H.R.H. has determined for the future to act 'the inscrutable personage' in admiration of his friend in Paris, the attempt has failed, and we are willing to desist in favour of an unborn brother. As to Lord STANLEY's opinions, they are easily got at, but are not copyright; and Mr. DISRAELI's views, besides being only 'professedly Conservative,' plead a 'previous engagement.' The new Tory journal will not be able to say whether Mr. DISRAELI, the most eminent statesman of his age, is prepared to march far ahead of Li-

beralism on the path of social reform, that England may know what it has to expect from the Right Hon. Member for Bucks, the leader of the intellect of the House of Commons, and may know also when he ceased to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, while surpassing all his contemporaries in the science of finance. But topics abound upon which a Tory journalist may pass opinions which will, in seven days, become 'matter of history.' It is a common thing, in these days, to leave historical trails. But the only point of the real Tory policy that is as yet visible consists in the unalterable resolve of Major BERESFORD to vote against Catholics and Jews, and to discriminate between yeomanry and rabble. Proud people of Braintree! Get votes, and you will be yeomen *ex officio*. Major BERESFORD will see the mob in another quarter. Above all, rally to the support of the forthcoming Tory paper, for it is destined, some prophets say, not merely to stereotype the institutions of England, but to revive the politics of the year 1800.

THE KINGSWOOD REFORMATORY.

WHATEVER doubts may be entertained as to the genuine reformation of adult criminals, the possibility of reclaiming juvenile delinquents is already established beyond all question. That there should be occasional backslidings ought to be no matter for special wonder or discouragement; for even in the higher classes of society, with all the advantages of a comfortable home, early instruction, and good example, there are, unhappily, too many derelictions of the practice of virtue. If only twenty youths were reclaimed out of a hundred, the philanthropist and patriot would still have reason to rejoice, and to persevere in the good work. As trainers of thieves, youths are more dangerous and expert than grown men. They are less suspected and feared; there is more sympathy in their manner; their personal influence is greater. Lord STANLEY, indeed, at the recent Conference alluded to one who had turned out no fewer than eight accomplished disciples. And they are naturally brought more in contact with the idle children of the poor, as they play about in the courts and alleys of the neighbourhood. For this reason it is especially important that the viciously disposed should be restrained from pursuing their evil tendencies, and be drilled into regular and industrious habits. Brief imprisonments usually confirm them in their guilty career, nor has the cat-o'-nine-tails ever been known to produce a good citizen. Besides, in very many cases, petty crimes are the result of absolute want, or of ignorance almost as absolute. In such instances common sense points out the sole remedy—an industrial and social education. The application of this remedy is the purpose of the different Reformatories that have lately sprung into existence throughout the empire, but nowhere in greater excellence than in Bristol.

At a distance of about three miles from that city, the Kingswood Reformatory School stands on a gentle eminence in the midst of a rich undulating country. It thus possesses the advantages of situation so strenuously insisted upon by Mr. DE METZ as indispensable to the success of a penal colony. Originally a Wesleyan college, it was converted to its present purposes, in 1852, by Miss CARPENTER and Mr. RUSSELL SCOTT. At first it was a mixed asylum for young persons of either sex, who had either offended against the laws, or were only waiting for a temptation to do so. Experience, however, soon proved the inexpediency of having boys and girls under the same roof, and in 1854 the latter were removed to the Red Lodge in

Park-row. There are now 37 boys in the Kingswood Institution, varying in age from 9 to 18, and whose previous commitments range from 1 to 6 times. Their offences were mostly small thefts, though now and then indicating the germ of progressive guilt. It is to be regretted, however, that there is no means of separating the younger from the elder boys. The former are usually the most promising, but their amendment is often-times retarded, if not altogether prevented, by contact with the more hardened depravity of their seniors. It is sad, too, to see lads of 17 or 18 playing at marbles, and treated in every respect like children. It is true that in ideas they are little better, but when ideas do begin to sprout with them, their growth and development are far more rapid than at an earlier age. The greatest trouble is generally given by the clever boys, whose superiority of mind soon makes itself felt among their comrades. The dull, unimaginative, unreflective lads are easily moulded for good or for evil, and readily follow the lead of their sharp-witted associates.

At Kingswood there are twelve acres of land, of which eight acres are laid out as garden ground, solely cultivated by the boys, under the direction of a regular gardener. It appears to be exceedingly well stocked with a great variety of vegetables, and is kept in excellent order. It is also worthy of remark that this garden is fenced round by an ordinary quick-set hedge, in which are several gaps, but, nevertheless, during the last six months only four attempted to abscond, of whom two were brought back the same afternoon. The more trustworthy boys are sometimes sent on errands into the village, or even into the town, but are never known to abuse the confidence placed in them. Besides gardening, they are also taught tailoring and shoemaking, and with their own hands make all the clothing which is used in the establishment, with the exception of socks, which are furnished from Red Lodge. As a substitute for gardening in the winter months, flax-dressing is about to be introduced. The greatest thirst for useful information is evinced by all ages. Their chief delight is to listen to pleasant lectures delivered by Miss CARPENTER on foreign shells, flowers, and animals, on the manners and customs of strange people, and on the nature and uses of economic productions; a still higher treat are the popular experiments in magnetism and electricity occasionally exhibited by that lady's brother. Unfortunately, there is a scarcity of books suited to their comprehension. Well-meaning persons are too much in the habit of forcing dry, repulsive works upon the poor, until morality comes to be looked upon as a bore, and useful knowledge is associated only with yawns. They do not act thus towards their own children. They know that these must be lured on to study by anecdotes, and illustrations, and suggestive stories. The useful and the agreeable must be blended together, or the former will certainly be rejected.

Nam veluti pueris absinthia tetra medentes
Quam dare conantur, prius oras pocula circum
Contingunt mellis dulci flavoque liquore,
Ut puerorum ætas improvida ludificetur
Laborum tenuis; interea perpetet amaram
Absinthii laticem, deceptaque non capiat,
Sed potius tali attractu recreata valescat.

The same rule applies with tenfold force to the unfortunate beings detained in Reformatories and similar institutions. What they chiefly want are good maps, engravings of all descriptions, and specimens of natural history and manufactures. They would certainly acquire far more information by hearing these subjects orally explained, than if the library of the British Museum were placed at their disposal. We do not pretend to as-

sert that books are altogether superfluous, but that they should be a secondary and subordinate means of instruction; and generally of a comparatively light and amusing nature. *Robinson Crusoe* will be found far more suggestive than a dozen *Milkmaids of Finchley*, and there is no lack of pleasant books of history, travels, arts, and economics, admirably adapted to the calibre of such minds. The date of the Battle of Marathon, or the distance of Saturn from the Sun, are matters of very little moment to a market-gardener, or a shoemaker's apprentice.

The Kingswood boys are allowed one penny per week for pocket-money, which most of them save up until their release. Some of them, however, invest their little store in rabbits or pigeons, and a few indulge their personal vanity by the purchase of a smart neck-tie, or jaunty cap, to be displayed on Sunday as they march to the village church. The pigeon-holes in the schoolroom in which they keep their little treasures are open and unprotected, but they seldom rob one another, and rarely allude to their past career, except in confidential conversation with their intelligent and sympathizing governor, Mr. GEORGE HARTLAND. It must be observed, however, that the weekly allowance is forfeited by misconduct. The ordinary punishment is confinement for so many hours in a light or dark closet—according to the enormity of the offence—and restriction to bread and water.

The diet is plain, but wholesome and abundant. Indeed, it is absolutely necessary to give sufficient nourishment to growing lads constantly at work. A large proportion on their admittance are found to be afflicted with scrofula and hernia; and, until the bodily functions do their duty satisfactorily, it is vain to think of cultivating either the intellect or the disposition. Some persons object to the air of substantial comfort which pervades the Reformatory Schools, and maintain that it holds out an inducement to parents to neglect their children. But the parents are held liable for the maintenance of their children to the extent of five shillings a week. And, besides, it is useless to struggle against necessity. The question is simply whether by dint of perseverance and a slight expenditure of money, seven boys out of ten shall be saved from crime, and the public from their depredations and bad example; or whether all these ten shall be allowed to pursue their guilty career, to their own utter misery, the infinite annoyance of their respectable neighbours, and the deterioration of the rising generation. The total cost of each inmate is about seven shillings and sixpence a week—three shillings, however, sufficing for the diet—for a period varying from two to five years, and for this outlay it is expected that twenty-five out of the thirty-seven will be reclaimed from vice and restored to society. The prospect is surely most encouraging. There is no good citizen but must sympathize with, and wish success to, this great work of regeneration.

THE RAILWAY KING AND HIS ACCEPTANCES.—In the course of an examination in the Bankruptcy Court into the affairs of W. Tingey, proprietor of the Bedford Patent, Tottenham-court-road, Mr. Johnson, for the assignees, applied for the sanction of the Court to a compromise which the assignees proposed to make with reference to a bill of exchange for 1000*l.*, bearing the names of Mr. George Hudson and Mr. Mould, a railway contractor, and for which they had been offered 150*l.* Mr. Commissioner Goulburn: "Hudson! Hudson! What Hudson is it?" Mr. Johnson: "The celebrated George Hudson, the late Railway King." The Commissioner looked incredulous. Mr. Johnson assured the Court that it was rightly informed. The Commissioner: "Is it come to this, that his acceptance for 1000*l.* is to be compromised for 150*l.*?" Mr. Johnson: "The assignees consider themselves very fortunate in getting that sum." The compromise was accordingly ordered.

Open Council.

(IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.)

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON

BOOK ADULTERATIONS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Observing the letter addressed to your temporary, the *Athenæum*, with reference to your article on "Book Adulterations," I, as another publisher, wish to make a remark or two. Your own observations, and those of your contemporary, are very just; the puffing houses will discover, in time, that they gain nothing by their forgeries of literary flattery. But when "The Lover of Consistency" urges that it is wrong to assist in the circulation of such puffs, he should remember that what is true of the *Leader* in this respect is true in an equal degree of the *Athenæum*, *Examiner*, *Spectator*, and *Times*. It is the known rule in this matter to allow an advertiser to insert in his announcements whatever he pleases that is not libellous or offensive. I do not think the authors are to blame. Mr. Albert Smith, for instance, cannot be believed chargeable with this: "Albert Smith has achieved even greater things than the ascent of Mont Blanc, he has written —." Yet this is not the worst aspect of the system. When a book fails to sell, it is put forth in successive "editions," the title-page being reprinted, and the cover changed from sober cloth to vermilion or amber paper, villanously illustrated. Again, the railway stalls have lately been crowded with reprints of old works under new titles, so that purchasers are positively deceived.

A PUBLISHER.

Paternoster-row.

MORE ANECDOTES OF PATRONAGE.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I have just read your article on "Patronage." Expose the iniquities of the system, and let the people know how are used the powers entrusted to various public officers for the public service, and not for private gain. Let me tell you what I have seen.

I was in Hamburg when the chaplaincy was vacant, and in the gift of Lord Palmerston, as Foreign Secretary. He offered the nomination to the British residents. One can hardly expect a large body of men to be unanimous on a public question, but the British residents were on this as nearly unanimous as possible, and by an overwhelming majority chose a gentleman as chaplain. As a quiet clergyman this gentleman was unknown to fame, but, alas! he had a relative who sat upon the Opposition benches. So Lord Palmerston disregarded the nomination of the Hamburg residents. For three or four months the gentleman in question performed the duties of the chaplaincy, when one day over came a chaplain with his lordship's appointment in his pocket—a man utterly unknown to the residents there, and utterly unfit for the post. He first emptied the chapel, and then exhibited himself in another capacity. But then he had probably a relative who supported Lord Palmerston.

Again, I know, *proph pudor!* a dignitary of the Church, a man great in place and pay and power, who had the official patronage of some dozen livings. Moreover, he had a son, who was so clever as to get plucked at Cambridge for his degree, and plucked by the bishop for his ordination. What was to be done? Why he offered to a friendless clergyman any patronage he could accept, provided he should pay a handsome percentage to the said pluckee.

Once more, I know a constituency whose member is so utterly bankrupt, that he has borrowed not only the spare cash of farmers and tradesmen, but the very savings of labourers and domestic servants. Of course, he is a supporter of Lord Palmerston. That man applies for every post in dockyard, Excise, and so forth, and has been probably more successful than any man alive. The service in those inferior, but useful and honourable walks, is crowded with men whose sole qualification has been dishonoured notes for money in the hands of their parents or friends.

These three anecdotes are not bad from one quiet hermit in the country, but I pledge myself to their truth, and as guarantee send you my name and address in confidence, and am ready to furnish proof of all that I advance. Get others to send you similar stories of Patronage, till the country begins to understand the meaning of the word.

Yours, &c., A HERMIT.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

A curious question of literary morals is raised by the writer of an interesting article on the "Gowrie Conspiracy" in the *National Review*, a question which concerns us all, critics, historians, and novelists. The writer is indignant with Mr. G. P. R. JAMES for having in a not very widely circulated novel misrepresented JAMES the FIRST, in order to suit the purposes of Fiction; and he invites Mr. JAMES to self-reflection, asking him how he would like to have his actions misrepresented by a novelist:—

In reasonable probability he would indict the gifted author for a libel, and recover substantial damages. Let him consider, then, how it is like to stand with himself in the libel-court up above; and in what coin damages are said to be paid there. The toleration of 'historical romance,' little as men know it, is a strange evidence of their disbelief in the continued existence of men and women after they pass off out of this world. If the novelists, and for that matter the historians too, had any real idea that the names with which they deal so freely belong to living persons, who will one day call them to account, their pens would run across their paper rather less rapidly.

This is quite a new mode of considering the matter. Let us only hope that JAMES the FIRST has lost something of his susceptibility to literary affronts, and will not be powerfully disturbed by the attacks of JAMES the Novelist, even supposing that gentleman's novels are in great request in celestial circulating libraries. For if the reviewer's assertion be true, we are most of us in a bad way. It is probable that we have spoken disrespectfully of CICERO; certain that we have used strong language in naming NERO. Have we never misrepresented ROBESPIERRE and MARAT? Have we told nothing but the truth about CLEOPATRA and SEMIRAMIS? Have we never insulted ARISTOTLE? These questions may disturb our peace of mind. If when the critic dies 'a friend is to wait upon him' for explanation of what he has written, the terrors of death will be considerably augmented. Let us hope that Literature is exclusively secular, mundane: it is our only hope!

Seriously, we think the responsibility to Truth has quite another basis than the one which the Reviewer would have us accept. Without discussing the matter, let us add that even with mundane existences the critic's task is difficult enough, raising enmities on all sides. What quarter can be expected by the writer of the article "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists" in the *Westminster Review*. The writers of silly novels cannot be expected to take such a castigation with meek submission, and they will loudly protest that they are not 'appreciated.' We fancy we detect a truth in the irony of the following passage, but will the silly novelists detect it?—

The fair writers have evidently never talked to a tradesman except from a carriage window; they have no notion of the working-classes except as 'dependents'; they think five hundred a year a miserable pittance; Belgravia and 'baronial halls' are their primary truths; and they have no idea of feeling interest in any man who is not at least a great landed proprietor, if not a prime minister. It is clear that they write in elegant boudoirs, with violet-coloured ink and a ruby pen; that they must be entirely indifferent to publishers' accounts, and inexperienced in every form of poverty except poverty of brains. It is true that we are constantly struck with the want of verisimilitude in their representations of the high society in which they seem to live; but then they betray no closer acquaintance with any other form of life. If their peers and peeresses are improbable, their literary men, tradespeople, and cottagers are impossible; and their intellect seems to have the peculiar impartiality of reproducing both what they have seen and heard, and what they have not seen and heard, with equal unfaithfulness.

How admirably said is the following:—

Greek and Hebrew are mere play to a heroine; Sanscrit is no more than a *b c* to her; and she can talk with perfect correctness in any language except English. She is a polking polyglot, a Cruizer in crinoline. Poor men! There are so few of you who know even Hebrew; you think it something to boast of it, like Bolingbroke, you only "understand that sort of learning, and what is writ about it;" and you are perhaps adoring women who can think slightly of you in all the Semitic languages successively.

We recognize the truth of this also:—

You will rarely meet with a lady novelist of the oracular class who is diffident of her ability to decide on theological questions,—who has any suspicion that she is not capable of discriminating with the nicest accuracy between the good and evil in all church parties,—who does not see precisely how it is that men have gone wrong hitherto,—and pity philosophers in general that they have not had the opportunity of consulting her. Great writers, who have modestly contented themselves with putting their experience into fiction, and have thought it quite a sufficient task to exhibit men and things as they are, she sighs over as deplorably deficient in the application of their powers. "They have solved no great questions"—and she is ready to remedy their omission by setting before you a complete theory of life and manual of divinity, in a love story, where ladies and gentlemen of good family go through genteel vicissitudes, to the utter confusion of Deists, Puseyites, and ultra-Protestants, and to the perfect establishment of that particular view of Christianity which either condenses itself into a sentence of small caps, or explodes into a cluster of stars on the three hundred and thirtieth page. It is true, the ladies and gentlemen will probably seem to you remarkably little like any you have had the fortune or misfortune to meet with, for, as a general rule, the ability of a lady novelist to describe actual life and her fellow-men, is in inverse proportion to her confident eloquence about God and the other world, and the means by which she usually chooses to conduct you to true ideas of the invisible is a totally false picture of the visible.

Of that dreary species of novel which the writer christens the "white neckcloth," it is well said:—

This species is a kind of genteel tract on a large scale, intended as a sort of medicinal sweetmeat for Low Church young ladies; an Evangelical substitute for the fashionable novel, as the May Meetings are a substitute for the Opera. Even Quaker

children, one would think, can hardly have been denied the indulgence of a doll; but it must be a doll dressed in a drab gown and a coal-scuttle bonnet—not a worldly doll, in gauze and spangles. And there are no young ladies, we imagine,—unless they belong to the Church of the United Brethren, in which people are married without any love-making—who can dispense with love stories. Thus, for Evangelical young ladies there are Evangelical love stories, in which the vicissitudes of the tender passion are sanctified by saving views of Regeneration and the Atonement.

We hope this drastic medicine may do the patients good, and somewhat diminish the number of silly novels; but our confidence is not great. Silliness is fertile.

If the *Westminster Review* is severe on the follies of one small class of women, it is earnestly striving to enlighten the public on the injustice under which all women live with respect to marriage laws. In this number there is a grave and interesting statement and discussion of the laws relating to the "property of married women," and the means of remodelling those laws. The subject has been taken up by men of such authority and ability, that ere long a change in the laws must come; and for the discussion of the subject in Parliament such articles as this in the *Westminster Review* will be of great service.

How perpetually, in one shape or other, this topic of marriage comes before us; sometimes in elaborate essays, at others in episodic digressions, as for instance in the article on "Shelley" in the *National Review*, where we read:—

There is an ordinance of nature at which men of genius are perpetually fretting, but which does more good than many laws of the universe which they praise: it is, that ordinary women ordinarily prefer ordinary men. "Genius," as Hazlitt would have said, "puts them out." It is so strange; it does not come into the room as usual; it says "such things:" once it forgets to brush its hair. The common female mind prefers usual tastes, settled manners, customary conversation, defined and practical pursuits. And it is a great good that it should be so. Nature has no wiser instinct. The average woman can make happy the average man; good health, easy cheerfulness, common charms, suffice.

Again:—

Some eccentric men of genius have, indeed, felt, in the habitual tact and serene nothingness of ordinary women, a kind of trust and calm. They have admired an instinct of the world which they had not—a repose of mind they could not share. But this is commonly in later years. A boy of twenty thinks he knows the world; he is too proud and happy in his own eager and shifting thoughts to wish to contrast them with repose. The commonplaceness of life goads him: placid society irritates him. Bread is an incumbrance; upholstery tedious: he craves excitement; he wishes to reform mankind. You cannot convince him it is right to sew, in a world so full of sorrow and evil.

The demands upon our space are too many to allow of anything like a particular account of the articles in the two Reviews from which we have been citing, and all we can do is to squeeze in a well-timed passage about CARLYLE, from the very interesting paper on "Personal Influences on our present Theology." After alluding to the state of opinion subsequent to the French Revolution the writer says:—

Something else was needed than a new form of the discarded materialism, and freethinking, and sensationalism of the last age. In truth, Scottish logic and metaphysics had run dry, and by resort to them was no baptism of regeneration to be found. While many still wandered there in hope, there came out of the desert a Scottish raver, who had desecrated an unexhausted spring, and led the way to it by strange paths. Thomas Carlyle gave the first clear expression to the struggling heart of a desolate yet aspiring time, making a clean breast of many stifled unbeliefs and noble hatreds; and if unable to find any certain Saviour for the present, at least preparing some love and reverence to sit, 'clothed and in right mind,' for the Divine welcome, whenever it might come. Is the reader surprised that we keep a niche for the author of *Hero-Worship* in our gallery of theologians? Be it so. The officials of St. Stephen's were also surprised at the proposal to put Cromwell's effigy among the statues of the kings. We will only say, that whoever doubts the vast influence of Carlyle's writings on the inmost faith of our generation, or supposes that influence to be wholly disorganizing, misinterprets, in our opinion, the symptoms of the time, and is blinded by current phraseology to essential facts.

This is in a different and deeper strain from that self-sufficient and patronizing tone which small writers often think proper to adopt towards CARLYLE; and coming from one who by no means shares CARLYLE's opinions, it is the more significant.

Before closing this article we must mention the *National Magazine*, a new weekly periodical, edited by Messrs. MARSTON and SAUNDERS. It promises to be an attractive twopennyworth of fiction, essays, and illustrations. A portrait of TENNYSON (which makes the poet appear more like a defiant creole than the author of *In Memoriam*) is the occasion of a little essay on the national characteristics of TENNYSON's poetry (we should note in passing that the epithet "windy Troy" was HOMER's before TENNYSON's); and "Biarritz" is a very pleasant sketch of a bathing place which, now that it is Imperial, will of course become fashionable. WILKIE COLLINS contributes a mysterious story, well told, as usual with him, but scarcely worth the telling—at least in that form, since the real interest of such a story would lie in the drama which is here shrouded in mystery, and not in the steps by which the mystery was revealed; as a psychological study the position of the two brothers and the wife over the dead body of the child would have been distressing, perhaps, but full of pathos.

LAMENNAIS.

Œuvres Posthumes de F. Lamennais. Publiées selon le vœu de l'auteur. Par E. D. Forgues. Paris, 1856.

Our readers may remember the trial in which the *parti prêtre* recently endeavoured to prevent the publication of this work, and failed. From his earliest days of celebrity Lamennais was a thorn in the side of the *parti*

prêtre; he was then the ardent champion of Catholicism, but his splendid talents were moved by an earnestness which promised trouble, and produced what it promised. The Breton thinker was "terribly in earnest," as Kemble said of Keats; and while he denounced the vice of the age, "indifference in matters of religion," he tried to make even the Pope change indifference into earnestness. Failing here—finding that the Church regarded him as "impracticable"—he wheeled suddenly round, and attacked the Church. He became an ardent republican, and he died with emphatic disavowal of that Church which had once been his ark of refuge.

In many ways Lamennais is deeply interesting to us. His pure and noble life, his ardent faith, his incomparable style, make everything that fell from his pen worth preservation. The volume before us will be welcomed by all who know Lamennais; but for the public to whom his other works are unknown, it will have less interest. It contains *Pensées* after the manner of Pascal, sometimes brief essays, sometimes epigrams and *γρῶμαι*; a charming little essay on "Old Age" (not at all like Cicero); and a long account of the once famous *Procès d'Avril*.

From the *Pensées* we will borrow a few samples suited to our pages; we must be permitted to quote the original sometimes in order to obviate the necessary injustice of translation:—

MIRACLES.

There are miracles whenever miracles are believed; they vanish as soon as doubt appears.

HISTORY.

What is History? Humanity at the Old Bailey. Government hangs the patient, the chaplain preaches to him of salvation.

L'histoire, qu'est-ce? Le long procès-verbal du supplice de l'humanité. Le pouvoir tient la hache et le prêtre exhorte le patient.

RESTLESS MEDIOCRITY.

There are people always tormented, always about to produce something important. They mistake the choleric for the pains of labour!

SINCERITY IN STYLE.

No man succeeds in expressing a sentiment he does not feel. His style reflects the grimaces of his mind.

On ne trouve jamais l'expression d'un sentiment que l'on n'a pas. L'esprit grimace et le style aussi.

PERFECT STUPIDITY.

There are minds so sterile that they cannot even produce absurdities. We find absurdities in them, it is true, but they are transplantations.

It will be expected that among these epigrams many will be merely epigrams of questionable truth or even unquestionable error; but they are always happily expressed. There is one rather long passage, in which Lamennais correctly enough inveighs against the danger to liberty of a standing army, but he glides into error when he says, "The Camp replaces the Nation. It is absolutely necessary for the freedom of a people that the soldier should be a citizen and the citizen a soldier." A glance at England would have assured him that such was by no means the necessary condition of freedom. Our soldiers are not citizens, our citizens are not soldiers. France approximates much nearer to such a condition, yet is France near freedom?

There are some admirable thoughts on religion and on free discussion, for which we must refer the reader to the volume itself. "Nothing is rarer," he says in one place, "than real love of truth; and yet what interest have men in evading truth? It is clear that their convictions in nowise alter her; admit her or reject her, she remains as truth. No man says, 'I will refuse to accept evident truth'—such an enormity would repel every one; but starting from the supposition that his belief is true, instead of examining this belief he examines all things according to it, calling those opinions true which conform to it, those false which oppose it. This disposition of mind is the result of early tuition. He has been taught that to question what his teachers proclaim is sin; and hence it is that all controversy in after life irritates him."

BEAUMARCHAIS.

Beaumarchais and his Times. By Louis de Loménie. Translated by Henry J. Edwards. Vols. III. and IV. Addey and Co.

THESE volumes complete the amusing but somewhat spun-out memoirs of the "admirable Crichton" of the eighteenth century. Beaumarchais seems to have been the most remarkable specimen of a "Jack of all trades" and "master of all" which his century produced, and indeed to this Protean activity he attributes the calumnies which throughout his successful career shadowed every success. Hear him, in his old age, review that career:—

With gaiety, and even *bonhomie*, I have had enemies without number, and have nevertheless never crossed, or even taken the path of another person. By dint of reasoning with myself I have discovered the cause of so much hostility; in fact, it is natural enough.

From the period of my thoughtless youth I have played every instrument, but I belonged to no body of musicians; the professors of the art detested me.

I have invented some good machines; but I did not belong to the body of engineers, and they spoke ill of me.

I composed verses, songs; but who would recognize me as a poet? I was the son of a watchmaker.

Not caring about the game of *loto*, I wrote some pieces for the stage, but people said: "What is he interfering with? he is not an author, for he has immense speculations, and enterprises without number."

Unable to meet with any one who would undertake my defence, I printed long Memorials, in order to gain actions which had been brought against me, and which may be called atrocious; but people said: "You see very well that these are not like those our advocates produce; he does not tire you to death; will such a man be allowed to prove without us that he is in the right?" *Inde ira.*

I have treated with ministers on the subject of great points of reform of which our finances were in need; but people said: "What is he interfering in? this man is not a financier."

Struggling against all the powers, I have raised the art of printing in France by my superb editions of Voltaire—the enterprise having been regarded as beyond the capabilities of one individual; but I was not a printer, and they said the devil about

me. I had constructed at the same time the first establishments of three or four paper factories without being a manufacturer; I had the manufacturers and dealers for my adversaries.

I have traded in the four quarters of the globe; but I was not a regular merchant. I had forty ships at sea at one time; but I was not a shipowner, and I was calumniated in all our seaports.

A ship-of-war of fifty-two guns belonging to me had the honour of fighting in line with those of his Majesty at the taking of Grenada. Notwithstanding the pride of the navy, they gave the cross to the captain of my vessel, and military rewards to my other officers, and what I, who was looked upon as an intruder, gained, was the loss of my flotilla, which this vessel was convoying.

And nevertheless, of all Frenchmen, whoever they may be, I am the one who has done the most for the liberty of America, the begetter of our own; for I was the only person who dared to form the plan and commence its execution, in spite of England, Spain, and even France; but I did not belong to the class of negotiators, and I was a stranger in the bureaux of the ministers. *Inde ira.*

Weary of seeing our uniform habitations, and our gardens without poetry, I built a house which is spoken of; but I did not belong to the arts. *Inde ira.*

What was I, then? I was nothing but myself, and myself I have remained, free in the midst of fetters, calm in the greatest of dangers, making head against all storms, directing speculations with one hand, and war with the other; as lazy as an ass, and always working; the object of a thousand calumnies, but happy in my home, having never belonged to any coterie, either literary, or political, or mystical; having never paid court to any one, and yet repelled by all.

There is some truth in this, but it is not all the truth. Ours is an envious world, an unjust world, but there is always some fault where it attributes crime, there is always some unavowed cause creating the distrust and dislike which are expressed. It may be that a fault of manner creates the prejudice, and makes the prejudiced public willing to believe the worst that envy or hatred can invent; but fault or vice there always is. Beaumarchais attributes to sheer envy what was probably the result of his own insolence. His confident, pushing, restless, intriguing nature, created more enmities than friendships. He carried his laurels with an insolent air; he bore his defeats with a courage which, admirable in itself, was fatal to sympathy. People are slow to praise those who loudly praise themselves, and are slow to pity those who seem unafflicted by misfortune: no one gives alms to the wealthy.

Read with this key, the life of Beaumarchais receives fresh interest. That he was an amazingly clever fellow every chapter of the book sufficiently proves; that he had excellent points in his character his biographer has placed beyond dispute; and although, on a rigorous investigation, his life seems to have been entirely that of a clever adventurer, it was also that of a good-hearted, valiant man. But his faults were of a kind which the world never pardons, and these faults damage a reputation more than many virtues. How many men are there whose immorality is screened by agreeable manners? We know them to be dishonest, but they are so charming; we know them to be sensual, but they are so gay and pleasant; we know them to be selfish, but they are so sympathizing in their manners that our goodwill is captive.

The two volumes now before us are not so interesting as the two which preceded them, but they are full of curious details respecting the state of society in the eighteenth century. The chapters which relate Beaumarchais' extraordinary enterprise of publishing the complete editions of Voltaire—and those which relate the story of the opposition to the performance of the "Marriage of Figaro"—a performance which the king had absolutely interdicted, foreseeing the revolutionary tendency of the piece, but which the Parisian public absolutely demanded—are chapters which no historical student should leave unread. We cannot praise M. de Loménie for any higher quality than that of diligence in collecting his materials, but the materials are often sufficiently curious to make us forget his defects.

THE LAST DAYS OF THE WAR.

The War. By W. H. Russell. From the Death of Lord Raglan to the Evacuation of the Crimea.

WHEN certain documents have been published, and when certain persons have said or printed that which they dare not print or say now, the late war with Russia will be ready for the historian. Mr. Russell has contributed his share. He himself avows, however, that the time has not yet come for the disclosure of all the truth. Nor is this otherwise than natural, considering how several military records even of the Wellington era, are expected to change colour, when the Duke's state-paper vault has given up its secrets. At present, an infinite variety of influences are at work to keep the story obscure. From the diplomatic beginning to the diplomatic end, from the original plan of the Eastern expedition to the cessation of hostilities—probably at a sudden order from France—a mystery gathers from time to time over the narrative, and we are forced to be satisfied with Mr. Russell's excuse, "the time has not yet come." He, at least, has told all he knew, though occasionally with studied vagueness, for there are many things that a journalist may know which he cannot prove. It may be a perfectly familiar fact to him, that one general betrayed stupidity, and another cowardice; but who could say so? The law of libel covers a multitude of sins, and common report is not admitted among pleas in justification. Suppose a journalist to accredit himself a representative of the army, and to ask why a runaway is suffered to wear triumphal plumes, he might *pens* whole battalions without winking from man or officer a declaration that a particular general of division was esteemed a coward in the camp. So with other matters, still more completely beyond the reach of present evidence. What were the debates, the bickerings, the divided proposals during the successive councils of war? What orders were received by the French Commander-in-Chief, and not communicated to the British? Only an oozing rumour escaped now and then, pervading the camps, and giving rise to no less perplexity and discussion; the official ground was beyond the jurisdiction of our own correspondent, deeply as he dived, and minutely as he planned and put together his personal observations and the testimonies of other witnesses and actors on the scene.

His second volume takes up the story at the appointment of General

Simpson, who felt and declared his incompetence, according to Mr. Russell. Thence, every episode of the long conflict is pictured in its turn, until the announcement of the Treaty of Paris allowed Russians, French, English, Turks, Sardinians, and Tartars to roam at will along the Crimean coast, and to revisit the battle-field of the Alma. The tenor of the narrative is somewhat different from that contained in the first volume. It is no longer the recital of woes and miseries endured by a forsaken and half-famished army, no longer an Iliad of inglorious disasters—the horrors of war without its epic action. There is less about the Commissariat, and more about the batteries; less about the departments at home, and more about the Malakhoff and Redan—names already growing dim. We now see a well-appointed army, a railroad, a commodious landing-place, regular arrivals of stores, troops really engaged with the enemy, and not devoting their heroism to the endurance of hunger that need never have been endured, disease that need never have been propagated, or fatigues that need never have been borne. Accordingly, Mr. Russell writes in a gay vein; but his criticisms are more confident than before; his eye has become almost military; he discourses of officers and their grievances as though he were a slighted captain, and of men and their deserts as though he were a British grenadier. Thus it is that his relation touches so many sympathies; he enters the circle and faces every individual, class, department, alternately, occupying himself with the most complex personal details, at the same time that he is preparing bright colours for his panoramic correspondence. We do not think this correspondence, brightly coloured as it is, deserves to be satirized as pyrotechnic or gaudy. It presents a series of tableaux of the day and for the day, which the artist may afterwards soften down, when the entire series has to be grouped and frescoed historically, but which certainly carried the English public, in imagination, to the seat of war, and inspired it with an enthusiasm as great as would have been inspired, in a ruder age, by the ballads of an heroic minstrel. Mr. Russell is bold in the use of language, and, like most very bold writers, occasionally overstrains his license, and passes the climax of metaphor. But even in the violence of his style there is originality and power; in this description of the Russian ships on fire after the last bombardment there is even beauty at the same time that there is exaggeration:—

About 2:30 in the morning, when she had been an hour or so in her novel berth, a broad light was perceived in her fore hatchway. The leading steamer on the opposite side in a second afterwards exhibited gleams of equal brightness, and then one! two! three! four! five!—as though from signal guns—the remaining steamers, with one exception, emitted jets of fire from their bows. The jets soon became columns of flame and smoke—the wind blew fresh and strong, and the night was dark, so that the fire spread with rapidity along the vessels, and soon lighted up the whole of the northern heavens. The masts were speedily licked and warmed into a fiery glow, and the rigging burst out into fitful wavering lines of light struggling with the wind for life; the yards shed lambent showers of sparks and burning splinters upon the water. The northern works could be readily traced by the light of the conflagration, and the faces of the Russian soldiers and sailors who were scattered about on the face of the cliff shone out now and then and justified Rembrandt. The work of destruction sped rapidly. The vessels were soon nothing but huge arks of blinding light, which hissed and crackled fiercely, and threw up clouds of sparks and embers, and the guns, as they became hot, exploded, and shook the crazy hull to atoms. One after another they went down into the seething waters.

And this, a retrospect on the Alma, is very effective:—

I could recall that narrow road filled with dead and dying—poor young Burgoyne going past on his litter, crying out cheerily, "It's all right—it's only my foot;" "Billy Fitzgerald" shot through both legs, lying up against the wall, and chatting away as if he had just sat down after a quadrille; a white-haired field-officer (of the 55th), whose name I don't know, badly wounded through the body, who could only moan bitterly, "Oh, my poor men! oh, my poor men! they hadn't a chance;" then the river stained here and there with blood, still flowing from the dead and dying who lay on the shallows and the banks, lined nevertheless by hundreds, who drank its waters eagerly; the horrid procession of the dripping litters going to the rear of the fight; the solid mass of Adams' brigade, halted by Lord Raglan's orders as it emerged from the smoke of Bourliouk; the Staff itself and the Commander-in-Chief, gathered on the rising ground close by; that ghastly battle-field where so many lay in so small a place putrescent with heat and wounds; the grey blocks of Russians melting away like clouds, and drifted off by the fierce breath of battle; the shriek and rush of the shells from the brass howitzers in the battery, the patter of the rifle, the rattling roll of the musketry, the frantic cheers of our men as they stood victors on the heights, drowning the groans and cries which for a moment succeeded the roar of battle; the shrill flourish of the French bugles, and the joyous clamour of their drums from the other side of the ravine,—all came back upon the ear again, and the eye renewed its pleasure as it gazed from the ridge upon the plain where it had before seen the Russians flying in disorder, with their rear still covered by the threatening squadrons of their cavalry. Then one recalled the spot where one had seen some friend lying dead, or some one—friend or foe—whom it were no mercy to strive to keep alive—Watkin Wynn, stretched on the ground in front of the trench, with a smile on his face—Colonel Chester, with a scornful frown, and his sword clenched in the death grasp—Monck, with the anger of battle fixed on every feature—these and many another friend in the peaceful camp of Aladyn or Devno rose up as they lived in the memory. The scowling Russians who glared so fiercely on their conquerors and seemed to hate them even as they supplied their wants, then seen for the first time, left an impression respecting the type of the Muscovite character which has scarcely been effaced now that they have ceased to be enemies. I recalled the two days passed as no army ought to pass two days—on the field of battle, amid the dead—the horrid labours of those hours of despondency and grief where all should have been triumph and rejoicing, and the awakened vigour with which the army broke from its bivouac on the Alma.

Mr. Russell has revised and corrected the letters in this volume, a nameless artist having added the author's portrait, which, we should say, is not from a photograph by Fenton.

LATTER-DAY POETRY.

Our table once more presents a motley gathering of young singing birds—feeble little fledglings whom we would fain take to our bosoms and cherish with something of vital warmth, but whose chirping is so pertinaciously foolish—so full of 'very affectations' and ridiculous self-assertion—that we are compelled to discharge our fowling-piece among them, and bring down a few for awful warning. Here, now, for instance, is a sky-lark with

the pastoral name of Combe, who has trilled forth some *Poems: Lyrical, Affective, and Dramatic*. (Edward Baines and Sons, Leeds.)—This little bird has a most conceited idea of himself; and, previous to giving vent to his feelings in song, has clapped his wings, by way of preface, after this prodigious fashion:—

The extreme abundance of verses of a quality of more or less respectable mediocrity precludes the authors of such verses from any pressing necessity that they should publish their productions. But the very same fact is a continual and urgent reason why the true poet [that is, why I], drawing from sources of a deeper and more genial inspiration, ought by all means to bring forward his [my] revelations for the solace and refreshment of the world. The great difficulty is for the author of a Volume of Verses to distinguish truly of himself whether he is a mere dabbler in the shallow waters, or whether he has had access given to him to the fountains of a profounder and more pregnant truth.

Various portions of the present volume having existed as manuscript for the space of seven, ten, twelve, and fourteen years, the author has at least this to say for himself, that he has not been hasty in coming to the conclusion that it was his duty to publish. And now in recording the deliberate act of his most matured consideration, he is not without a conviction, that to some readers, this little work may reveal tones of a diviner and more melodious wisdom, and glimpses of a deeper and more significant truth such as may to some extent have justified him in the act of its publication. And he is not without a belief, that, in the very extravagance which distinguishes the concluding portion of the volume there may be something which the age will welcome, even as a rocky and fantastic bluff might be welcomed in the midst of prairie-gardens of wearisome and interminable luxuriance.

The first division of the volume thus triumphantly sent into the world is called "Passion's Progress: a Series of Lyrics, in Three Parts." All these lyrics have a connecting chain of obscure story; but the author, recollecting the unfortunate fate of Tennyson's *Maud*, the story of which was similarly indicated by snatches of song, and fearing that he may not get a Dr. Mann to 'vindicate' or explain his recondite intentions, has undertaken that task for himself, and has prefixed a "Biographic Narrative," in which he benignly criticizes and elucidates his own production. After this fashion chirps our little bird about himself:—

In the fourth lyric, we have an utterance from the passionate and unfathomable depths of the poet's heart, full of the most profound and tender significance. . . . Every verse as it flows seems burdened with the inexpressible and tender sympathy which the grief of our heroine has awakened in the heart of our hero.

The same tone of complacent self-admiration is continued through nearly fifteen pages, post octavo. We are told that, "in the fifth lyric (Part II.), our poet bursts forth into a strain of the most impassioned and intoxicated gladness;" that, in the seventh, he "seems to sob out the very breath of his existence in a parting strain of the most unbending and sorrow-stricken resignation;" that he "wins upon our sympathies;" that he relieves his feelings "with a redundant fluency of illustration;" that he gives "a powerful and poetical illustration" of something; that he proclaims the truths of religion "to the globe-encompassing Principalities and Powers;" "in a strain of sublime and prophetic warning," and, "full of ineffable and holy ardour, hurls down the vain dignities of earth;" with a great deal more to the same effect. But Mr. Combe does not seem to be quite aware of his own intentions; for he says "it would appear" from the concluding stanza of one of his lyrics that something or other is the case. In the sixth lyric of Part II., we are "floated away seemingly to the South Seas," with a lovely but unapproachable island in the distance:—

But suddenly the dreamy image is swept from our perceptions by the blackness of a tropical tornado, the prolonged and ceaseless tumult of the ocean roars echoing on our senses, and we are left to imagine what new and tragical catastrophe has burst on our unhappy hero.

However, it all ends pleasantly; for, in the last lyric, "heaven seems to open on the enraptured imagination of the poet," who is presented to our gaze as "victor over Death and Sin," in "the hallowed mansions of ineffable and eternal peace." This is surely plagiarised from the conclusion of the pantomime playbills.

But the reader shall have, as a specimen, the lyric alluded to as being "full of the most profound and tender significance":—

If thou wert drest in splendour,
And I were by thy side;
And we stood before the altar,
As bridegroom and as bride;
Oh, wouldst thou then be happy,
My own, my chosen child;
And smile upon me yet again,
As once, in youth, thou smiledst?

(Little bird, chirp good grammar, if you please.)

Oh, would thy heart awaken,
With long-forgotten gleams
Of youth, and love, and rapture,
Remembered but in dreams?
Oh, wouldst thou seek in fondness,
And find in me at last,
A refuge and a haven
From all the weary past?
Oh, speak it not in words, love,
But look it with thine eyes:
Or if a tear should dim them,
Oh, breathe it then in sighs.
But if thy heart should tremble,
Ere yet that sigh be free,
Oh, weep it on my breast, love,
And I will weep on thee.

"The Fate of Claribel," in the volume, is a piece of dulness and morbid gloom, setting forth how a young lady goes mad because the hero marries her twin sister instead of herself; how both young ladies die sympathetically about the same time; and how the hero, who has always found himself sorely perplexed by 't'other dear charmer,' feels greatly relieved in his mind now both of them are 'away.' The last poem of the volume—"The Battle of the Bridges: a Poetical Extravaganza"—is a cumbrous attempt at a mock heroic story, descriptive of the commotion supposed to be

produced among the geni of the Leeds manufacturing furnaces by the Smoke Prevention Act. This is the poem which the age is to welcome "as a rocky and fantastic bluff." A few good lines in Mr. Combe's volume show that better things might, perhaps, be achieved by him; but the time has not yet come—if it ever will come—for ranking him among the poets of the age.

Mr. Combe, it has been seen, speaks of "the extreme abundance of verses" now put forth. In the preface to the volume we next take up—*The Banks of the Wye, and Other Poems* (London: Moore)—we are told that there is a "paucity of poetical writers," and that the issue of their productions is a "rare occurrence." It were to be wished that this latter gentleman could change places with us: he would then find out his mistake, and would in future forbear from increasing the stock by such foolishness as he has here collected into a hundred heavy pages. His volume is worth running through, however, as a curious exemplification of the depths of imbecility to which a human soul can descend. One half of the book consists of some poems written in accordance with the worst development of the "heart and impart" personification style which prevailed during the last century, and which we could scarcely have conceived it possible any man now-a-days would desire to revive; the other half is made up of inanities on subjects of the moment, in which a desperate struggle to be witty and humorous is hopelessly maintained, chiefly by means of slang. In a poem called "Hold Your Peace"—an adjuration which we feel strongly moved to make to the writer himself—we read:—

Ye saucy Rooks that ever caw,
And drown the "gardens" with your "jaw";
Obey your brother black-coats' Law,—
Hold your peace!

But perhaps the deepest deep of fatuity is reached in

THANKS FOR A DINNER OF SALMON.
How shall I thank you for the fish,
With which you heaped my dinner dish?
It is not in my power to do
The like kind office now for you,—
But hope with interest to repay
Your kindness at some future day.
It was, without a word of gammon,
A most delicious slice of salmon;
More on this theme I'd gladly write,
If I could make my Muse indite,—
She's in her sulks, and won't proceed,—
So let the will excuse the deed!

We are really too indolent, or we might indulge in a parody on the foregoing, with the title—"Thanks for a Very Foolish Book"—and with these two lines:—

It is, without a word of chaffing,
A book for most excessive laughing.

The most original thing in the volume is the author's accentuation of the word robust, which he turns into *robüst*—

As the staunch Oak its robust limbs out-throws.

Gonzaga di Capponi: a Dramatic Romance. By Henry Solly. (Longmans.) We have read the first act of this play, and no more, except in desultory snatches, finding it utterly impossible to struggle through the whole. For here are six acts and 330 pages of painfully dull blank verse, written with a moral purpose—the said purpose being to show that the greatest geniuses, though possessing the highest patriotism and the purest benevolence at the commencement, are apt in the end to become villains of the deepest dye unless their ambition be chastened by religious feeling. This is shadowed forth in the career of a Florentine democrat, Gonzaga di Capponi, who begins by being the servant of his fellow plebeians, and ends by becoming a bloodthirsty tyrant. Mr. Solly, like some of the other poets to whose romances we are now introducing the reader, writes a preface wherein he recommends you to "consult" Napier's *History of Florence*, as well as Machiavelli and Sismondi, whose works are "easily accessible"—as if it never occurred to any one to "consult" these authors before. The preface concludes with the following rhapsody, which, though meant to be pious, is to our minds rather profane:—

With these explanatory remarks, the author sends his work into the world to play such part as may be according to the will of Him, who in His providence guides a sparrow's flight, and who by His children's wisdom and folly, by their failures as by their success, is silently and steadily working out His grand designs for universal and eternal good.

Prefaces to poems, in fact, are apt to be very presumptuous and conceited. Here, in a little volume, called *Pebbles from Parnassus* (Laver), are some introductory confidences, by which the reader is apprized that the accompanying verses are printed more because of "the writer's power easily so to produce them," than because of "any intrinsic value of their own." We do not know why the public is to be bored with crude poems merely because the writer can easily produce them: however, this particular author is not without a hope that his verses may appeal faintly to the reader's heart, "and leave an echo there when the page is closed;" in which case, his "aspirations will have been amply fulfilled." A somewhat sickly and sentimental character pervades these poems; but there are some pretty passages here and there—as, for instance, these lines forming part of a sonnet descriptive of early morning:—

Oh Heaven! how sweet the breeze, how cool and still
Is all! Earth, air, and water, seem to rest
Under some magic, and the distant hill
Looks like th' enchanter's green mantle drest.
Whilst the long aisles of odorous chesnut trees,
Through which the sun his earliest amber showers,
Seem, as they stand unshaken by the breeze,
Huge candelabra lighted with pale flowers,
As though o'er-night some giants' festival
Had been played out, and these the relics all.

And this is really striking and fine:—

At length one evening, when the autumn mist
Made phantoms of the mountains, &c.

Arden: a Poem. By John Croker Barrow. (Saunders and Otley.)—This has been written under a singular delusion. The author has imbued himself in Tennyson's *Maud*, but has forgotten that such a poem was ever published, and has accordingly reproduced it—with variations. The story is told in detached lyrics, of divers measures; the hero is his own narrator; and he is a cynic who falls in love, or a lover who becomes a cynic. His father's castle is

Built on the beach that maddens the surge,
Mocking the notes of its solemn dirge.

We think we have read in the Laureate's last poem—

Now to the scream of a madden'd beach dragged down by the wave.

There is a wood behind the father's mansion, as in *Maud*. Of the clergyman's daughter, Dora, we are told that her face was

Cold, and calm, and clear;

that her eyes were "pale, cold eyes;" that she was an "icicle beauty;" and that she had

—purity shadow'd and frozen upon her.

Perhaps the reader may recollect that Maud's face was a "passionless, pale, cold face," a "cold and clear-cut face,"

Faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null.

There is a heath, also, at the back of the hero's residence—a spot like the little hollow in *Maud*, where the suicide was committed, and where the "blood-red heath" and "the red-ribbed ledges" of the rock seem to be always blabbing of violent death. So in *Arden*. The heath is

Just such a spot to smother
Stains on the purple night-shade died
From the crimson life of another—
In the lean dry moss of its hollows to hide
The blood of a murdered brother.

Once, in the hero's boyhood, a corpse was found there, and at night "a skeleton groan palsied the terrified air." When the dead body in *Maud* is brought home, the boy hears

The shrill-edged shriek of a mother divide the shuddering night.

Maud is encountered by her lover riding on horseback; so Dora must be met similarly mounted:—

She rode by the sycamore planting there,
On her Arab steed.

After a while, the hero goes mad, for reasons not clearly indicated; but he recovers (as in *Maud*) on hearing of the war with Russia:—

I think I must have been mad!
But I soon got better again;
And though my spirit was sad,
I was free from pain;
And so at the chance of a war I was glad,
For I thought of all I should gain—
And I went to the East, with the heart I had,
To seek for death on the plain.

Maud is "not seventeen;" Dora, therefore, shall be sixteen. Maud is "the moon-faced darling of all;" Dora also is "moon-faced." A kiss which the hero just fails in obtaining reminds him of this:—

When a child puts out his mouth ready loop'd
For the grape he is destin'd to miss.

And that reminds us of this:—

Maud with her sweet purse-mouth when my father dangled the grapes.
Maud's lover thinks that,

How'er we may brave it out, we men are a little breed.

Dora's lover is similarly impressed:—

We are pitiful creatures all,
And we grovel about in the dust;
And each one looks at his neighbour's wall
With a feeling of half-distrust.

He objects also to "the bondage of gold." Then there is a ball, as in *Maud*; and ultimately the lady—or some lady, for there is a great confusion of ladies—consents to the banns being put up:—

She is going to be my bride!
To be the life of my life!
She is going to be my bride!
She is going to be my wife!

However, an awful catastrophe ensues on the eve of the wedding-day, and she isn't his wife. And there it ends.

To re-write another man's book requires, no doubt, great courage and a noble audacity; but it can hardly be called an exercise of original genius.

The Arts.

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The day on which the last grand fountain demonstration took place at the CRYSTAL PALACE having been unpropitious, there will be another—and, we are told, positively the last—watery festival this day. The spectacle is one of surpassing beauty; and we cannot, therefore, avoid hoping that the clouds may clear off for an hour or so, and add the golden splendours of sunlight to the vapoury silver of the jets and aqueous columns.

A suggestion was made by a correspondent of one of our daily contemporaries, that the day should for the nonce be made a shilling day; but this has not been acceded to. The aristocratic half-crown shuts out the humble John Smiths and Thomas Joneses. This is to be regretted; for the greatest glory of "the Palace" is that it claims to be the Palace of the Democracy.

The first of the cheap concerts at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, took place last Saturday evening, and was highly successful, nearly every one of the songs being encored by the democratic music-lovers. The Mayor and several members of the municipal council were present, and remained to the end. The scale of admission is the same as that at the London Monday Evening Concerts—viz., 3d., 6d., and 1s.

THE REFORMATORY MOVEMENT IN BERKSHIRE.—A meeting of subscribers and friends of the Berks Reformatory Institution was held last Saturday at Shinfield, near Reading. Mr. Benyon, one of the original founders of the institution, was called to the chair. He stated that "the school was opened in June, 1855, and was certified by the Secretary of State for the reception of thirty boys in September following. The expense of purchasing the premises, with about four and a half acres of garden ground, together with the maintenance of the boys to Michaelmas, 1855, had amounted to 719l. 7s. 6d. The establishment at present consisted of a head master and matron, and a school and trades' instructor, the assistance of a journeyman shoemaker being occasionally allowed. The number of boys in the school was twenty-one." The conduct of the boys, morally and industrially, had been very good; they had harvested their crops very efficiently, and had learnt various useful arts. In the haymaking season, some of them had been employed by the neighbouring gentry, and their conduct had been quite satisfactory. "Only two instances of attempts to abscond had occurred. One boy from Hardwick, who was free to go, left without notice, but after some months' absence returned, and was refused re-admission. On another occasion a boy was tempted away by Reading Fair, but was at once brought back and placed in confinement, when his schoolfellows joined in a petition for his pardon. One boy, however, declined to support the petition, giving as his reason, that 'if a boy was fool enough to run away, it served him right to be punished.' Provision was now made in the school for thirty-five boys, and the additional buildings required for that number had recently been completed. The premises comprised a school and dwelling-house, a barn, piggeries, and cowshed." Another speaker said that it had been proposed at the Bristol meeting to establish agencies in the different colonies in order to aid the emigration of such boys as were unable to find employment in England. If that were done, it would always be necessary to have something in hand for starting the boys in life, and consequently, it would be injudicious to discontinue the public subscriptions altogether, although, as had been stated, the Government grant was sufficient for current expenses.—Resolutions, confirming the proceedings of the manager, and approving the manner in which the reformatory had been conducted, were then agreed to, and the meeting was brought to a close.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—John Hodson recently expired at Stone at the age of one hundred and three. Until within the last twelve months, he might daily be seen driving cows to milk through the town. He possessed the perfect use of his faculties, with the exception of his hearing, till the last. His family show an interesting relic of the old man—a light blue frock-coat, which he wore on sixty consecutive club-days at the Stone Fair Club.—*Wolverhampton Chronicle*.

OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT OF THE COURT OF BANKRUPTCY.—The office of the Accountant-General in Bankruptcy, which has been closed for two months under an order of the Lord Chancellor, was reopened on Monday, and the payment of dividends was resumed.

MR. ALBERT SMITH has been visiting Chamouni, where he appears to have been received with great rejoicings. "Yesterday," says the *Gazette de Savoie*, "the whole valley was alive to welcome Mr. Albert Smith; the local authorities and the greater portion of the population received enthusiastically the artist and author who has popularized, with the English, excursions amongst our mountains, and the generous man who stretched out a helping hand to the victims of the conflagration of July, 1855. Up to a late hour at night, the sound of music and the firing of cannon in front of the hotel where Mr. Albert Smith was stopping, bore witness to the general delight at his presence."

CRIMEAN ANTIQUITIES.—Two full-sized figures, in marble, representing a lion and a lioness, have just arrived at Portsmouth from Kertch, where they formed part of the stores in the museum. They are supposed to date from the time of Mithridates. A marble slab, with some devices or scroll work sculptured on it, has also arrived. These interesting antiquities are destined for the British Museum.

THE LATE ABDUCTION EXTRAORDINARY.—It is the intention of the clergyman, who lately forcibly carried his wife away from a house at Reading in which she was staying, to bring the matter into the ecclesiastical courts. The lady was set at liberty, on the stipulation that in a few days she was to return; but she has left Reading for some place unknown to her husband.

THE DRAINAGE SCHEME.—A special meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works was held on Monday in No. 1 Committee Room, Guildhall, for the purpose of considering the report of the engineer of the board on the whole question of the northern and southern drainage, with comparative estimates of different points of outfall, and modes of disposing of the sewage. Mr. Thwaites was in the chair. A previous resolution, determining that the outfall should be at Barking Creek, was rescinded; and much discussion then ensued on the suggestions offered by the various members. Several divisions were taken, but all of a negative result; and the subject was adjourned to next Wednesday.

RESIGNATION OF THE BISHOP OF DURHAM.—The formal resignation of Dr. Maltby took place early last

week. This having been accepted by the Archbishop of York, the Dean and Chapter of Durham met and appointed commissioners to exercise the duties of the see until the institution of the new Bishop.

COLONEL SHEWELL, C.B.—The death of Colonel Frederick George Shewell, C.B., of the 8th Hussars, took place on Wednesday week, near Guildford. Colonel Shewell had been thirty years in the service, commanded the 8th Hussars at the famous Balaklava charge, where he brought a portion of the brigade out of action, and subsequently held the rank of Brigadier-General in the Crimea, for which he was made a C.B., and awarded a pension for distinguished services. He was forty-seven years of age.—*Globe*.

THE HEALTH OF LORD EBRINGTON.—At the annual meeting of the West Buckland Agricultural Association, Earl Fortescue stated that Lord Ebrington had been positively forbidden by his medical advisers (on account of the state of his sight) to attend any candlelight meeting, and he was also obliged to abstain from reading and writing. To prevent the possibility of his transacting any business, he had been advised to withdraw himself from England for the next six months.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLIERIES.—A meeting of mine agents, mine surveyors, &c., suggested by the defective state of the rules for the management of collieries, as indicated by the late accident at the Ramrod Hall works, took place last week at Dudley, to consider the propriety of recommending alterations in the existing state of things. A committee of twelve gentlemen was appointed, and the meeting was adjourned for a month.

ELEGANT EXTRACTS FROM A CATHEDRAL BOOK.—When first Peterborough Cathedral was opened by the present dean for the inspection of visitors during certain hours of the day, it was found that many persons gave vent to their feelings, whether of admiration or derision, by scribbling on the stonework. The dean therefore provided a book in which visitors were at liberty to pour forth their ideas without control; and this plan has been found efficacious in saving the pillars and walls. After two years and a half of the new system, a correspondent of the *Peterborough Advertiser* has analyzed and sorted these literary productions, which he arranges under the heads "Rude—Silly—Common-place—Critical—Reflective." Here are some of the silly entries:—"Damp day." "I would have gone to the top, but I had bad boots on." "Two farthings for one halfpenny." "The Queen a cobbler, and the Emperor of Russia a stone, and may she beat him well!" "The Cathedral is very cold." "I do not know how to spell my name, so do not put it." Among the common-places is one, signed "Ellen Brown," which consists of the two words—"Truly beautiful!" The reflections contain the following:—"What a puppet-show!" "May this prove the rule, not the exception! then will people venerate their—" "Say to York and Winchester, 'Go thou and do likewise.'" "I trust the vergers are well remunerated." "A visit to this noble edifice cannot fail to elevate the moral character." "This material grandeur acts upon the imagination, and renders her the handmaid of Religion."

"Would to God this edifice were restored to its original owners!" A lady jots down an obscure aspiration:—"May all have proper appreciation of the privilege!" A male penman thinks, oddly enough, that the building is "a foretaste of Reason." Another can only make this remark—that the sight is "far above all small remark;" but he does not offer any large one. "A beautiful place, if used for a different purpose," thinks one of the scribblers; and another is "much amused with the building." But the best bit of all is from a boy "just off to school," who remarks that "it is a good place for marbles." In the midst of these eccentricities are some quotations and allusions of a professedly religious character.

SUICIDE BY A RELIEVING OFFICER.—An inquest was held on Monday, at Bathaston, near Bath, on the body of Mr. W. Mannings, the relieving officer for the country parishes of the Bath Union, who committed suicide by hanging himself in his stable on the previous Friday evening. He was 46 years of age, had served as relieving officer of the Bath Union ever since the passing of the New Poor Law, but had been addicted to drinking for some time past, and had suffered from *delirium tremens*. About a month since, he fell down stairs and injured his head, and from that time there had been a marked difference in his conduct at home. He was possessed of some house property, which has latterly got into Chancery, and that had preyed upon his mind. A verdict was accordingly returned of Temporary Insanity.

THE REPRESENTATION OF LYMINGTON.—Mr. Hutchins, M.P. for Lymington, Hants, having become a Roman Catholic, has been requested by one hundred and twenty-four of the electors to resign; but he refuses, saying that he represents their political, not their religious principles. He adds, that he offered six months ago, immediately on becoming a Papist, to resign; but this was not accepted—indeed, he was urged to retain his seat.

MRS. STOWE has left the residence of the Duchess of Sutherland, and will shortly return to her own country, where she will publish a supplementary volume detailing her renewed experiences in the old country.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY.—At a special Court of Common Council held on Monday, Deputy Hale brought up

a report from the London Corporation Bill Committee to whom, on the 31st of July, it was referred to carry into execution their report, then delivered in, on presenting the petition to the House of Commons in favour of the bill for the enlargement of the franchise, the repeal of the stamp duty on freedoms, and recommending the repeal of the corporation fines and fees, including the ancient fine of 2l. 6s. 8d. After some discussion, the report was unanimously adopted. Deputy Dakin then moved—"That the Chamberlain be directed to admit to the freedom of the City, without further order from this court, all persons making application for that purpose whose names are on the parliamentary register for the City of London, in conformity with the report of the Corporation Bill Committee and the order of the court thereon."

METROPOLITAN ALTERATIONS.—There is now (says the *Observer*) a prospect of the long-talked-of new street from the Town-hall, Southwark, to the York-road, near to the South Western Railway station, being formed. In addition to this new street in Southwark, Mr. Derna-thorn's plan for opening a wide thoroughfare between the corner of St. Martin's-lane and Long-acre, and King-street, Covent-garden, is likely at length to be adopted. It has also been currently stated that the proposal for rebuilding Covent-garden Theatre on its old site has been abandoned, and that the Duke of Bedford is thinking about pulling down the old church of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, and re-erecting it on the site of the theatre, and of pulling down the block of houses between Covent-garden and Bedford-street, to extend the market in that direction.

ART MANUFACTURE EXHIBITION IN EDINBURGH.—An exhibition will be opened in the National Gallery, Edinburgh, about the middle of December, by the Art Manufacture Association—a society just established in Scotland, under the presidency of the Duke of Hamilton, for the purpose of encouraging the application of art to objects of utility and ornament.

THE GREAT BELL FOR THE WESTMINSTER CLOCK.—The schooner Wave, Moncrieff master, of Wisbeach, which was chartered for the conveyance of the Westminster clock bell to London, has undergone the necessitated repairs by the straining she received by the falling of the bell into her hold on the 13th ult. The damage has been found to be greater than was at first anticipated; but she has now started for London with the bell on board.

KOSSUTH'S VISIT TO MANCHESTER.—The ex-Governor of Hungary is to deliver three lectures in the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, in the second week of November next, on "The Present State of Italy," and on "The Concordat between Austria and the Pope." During his residence in Manchester, he will be the guest of Alexander Henry, Esq., late M.P. for South Lancashire. He will afterwards proceed to Edinburgh.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, October 7.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—JAMES WALKER NINNES, High-street, Tunbridge Wells, watchmaker and jeweller.
BANKRUPT.—WILLIAM TURNER, 1, High-street, Forest-hill, Kent, milliner—WILLIAM FEVER, Peterborough, publican—JOHN SAUNDERS MUIR, Aberdeen-villa, Aberdeen-place, Maida-hill, Middlesex, schoolmaster and boarding-house keeper—WILLIAM SEMMONS, Redruth, Cornwall, draper and tailor—JAMES DAVIES, Newport, Monmouth, currier and leather seller—RICHARD NUTTALL CLEMENS, Liskeard, Cornwall, tailor and draper—JAMES SCOTT, Batley Carr, York, rag merchant—EDWARD ROWELL, Manchester, bill broker—JAMES DONALD and JOHN LOCKART DONALD, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, watchmakers—JOHN CARR, Wallsend, Northumberland, iron manufacturer and coke burner.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—LEWIS STEWART, Rothsay, watchmaker and auctioneer—Mrs. AGNES M'KENZIE or POLLOCK, 3, James Watt-street, Glasgow, spirit dealer—JOHN YOUNG, Edmonstone, carpenter and joiner—JAMES ANDERSON HUGHES, Dundee, wright and builder.

Friday, October 10.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—JAMES HENRY MITCHELL, Kingston-upon-Hull, boot and shoe maker.
BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM SEMMONS, Redruth, Cornwall, tailor—WILLIAM JAMES ROBSON, Kennington-oval, antimony smelter—JAMES ASHFORD, Southam, Warwick, grocer—WILLIAM HORACE MONROE, Boston, pawnbroker—CHARLES JONES, Gloucester, sail maker and ship owner—MOSS ALFRED LEWIS and JACOB LEWIS, Fore-street, lithographic printers—WILLIAM ROSE, Kingsland-road, Middlesex, baker—WILLIAM JOHN COOPER MAXTED, Chatham, draper—WILLIAM HENRY GIBSON, Hereford, carrier—CHAMNEY LEICESTER and JOHN ECCLES LITTLEBOY, Liverpool, corn merchants—PERCY DOUGLAS KAIN, King William street, City, dealer in fancy goods—JOHN LEDWARD, Jun., Gorton, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—SCOTT and Co., Glasgow, merchants—JOHN WHITAKER PARKER, Duddington, tavern keeper—ROSS and Co., Glasgow, lithographers—JOHN MARTIN, Leith, clerk (deceased)—SEATON WARBURTON, Edinburgh, engraver—JOHN MUNROE and Co., Glasgow, merchants.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HAGUE.—On the 3rd inst., at Acomb, near York, the wife of Patrick Hague, Esq., late her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Ningpo: a daughter.

SMYTHE.—On the 3rd inst., at Acton Burnell, Shropshire, the Hon. Lady Smythe: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DICK—BURTON.—On the 16th ult., at the British Embassy, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Alfred Carrington, third son of Captain G. F. Dick, late Colonial Secretary Mauritius, to Caroline Lucy, daughter of the late Sir Charles Burton, Esq., and granddaughter of the late Sir Charles Burton, Bart., and the Hon. Lady Burton, of Follerton, county of Carlisle.

MURRAY—RUTHERFORD.—On the 2nd of July, at Wynberg, Cape of Good Hope, the Rev. Andrew Murray, son, minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Blomfonteyn, Orange River Free States, South Africa, to Emma, second daughter of H. B. Rutherford, Esq., M.L.C. of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

PREST—HEUGH.—On the 16th of June, at Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, W. P. Prest, Esq., of H.M.'s 4th Royal Regiment, youngest son of the late Samuel Prest, Esq., Stapleford Lodge, in the county of Cambridge, to Maria Heugh, daughter of the late Captain Lloyd, R.N., Civil Commissioner and Chief Magistrate at Port Elizabeth, and widow of the late Anthony Heugh, of the same place.

DEATHS.

BINGHAM.—At Woolwich, Capt. Edmund Hayter Bingham, son of the late Colonel Charles Cox Bingham, Royal Artillery, aged 82.

CUST.—At Euston-square, Mary Eleanor, the infant daughter of Reginald John and the Lady Elizabeth Cust.

DILLON.—On the 23rd ult., at Epsom, Surrey, aged 80, Mrs. Dillon, formerly of Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, October 10, 1856.

THE state of affairs here in the City is still so gloomy that the Bank of England has found it necessary, without waiting for the regular weekly day of meeting, to raise again the rate of discount to 6 per cent. for short bills and 7 for long; this, combined with the still critical state of the French Money Markets, has been the cause of further depression in Consols since last week. On Saturday last they were quoted 92½, 93 for the November account, and they are now at 92½. The settling took place on the 8th inst. The contango was very heavy, viz., 1 per cent. There has been for the last few days quite a panic in the old 6 per cent Turks; they have fallen from 101½, that is, the making up price last account, to 91½ 92 x d. This extraordinary drop is, it is said, owing to a report that the Turkish Government had been obliged to borrow the money to pay the dividend. This, however, appears to be without foundation, and it is far more likely that the Joint-Stock Banks, who have been large holders of these Turkish Bonds have thrown them on the market in consequence of the public confidence not having been restored since the failure of the Royal British, fearing a run upon them, and thus occasioning depression in the market. This at least may be in some measure the cause of a fall, but surely hardly sufficient for a drop of 7 per cent. There has not been a great deal of business doing in the Railway Markets during the past week, but on the whole they look good.

The following are the closing prices:—

Aberdeen, —; Caledonian, 54½; x.d. 4½; Chester and Holyhead, 154, 164; Eastern Counties, 81, 9; Great Northern, 98, 91½; Great Southern and Western (London), 113, 115; Great Western, 63, 64½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 94, 94½; London and Blackwall, 61, 61½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 103, 105; London and North-Western, 100½, 101½; London and South Western, 102, 103; Midland, 75½, 76; North-Eastern (Berwick), 75, 76; South Eastern (Dover), 69, 69½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 61, 7; Dutch Rhine, 1, 1 pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 54½, 55; Great Central of France, 44, 5 pm.; Great Northern of France, 37½, 38; Paris and Lyons, 50, 50½; Royal Danish, 19, 20; Royal Swedish, 11, 11½; Samara and Meuse, 10, 11.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, October 10, 1856.

DURING the week the arrivals of Foreign Wheat have been rather liberal, and chiefly from the Russian ports in the Baltic; but the supplies of English continue moderate. The trade on the spot is very firm, but without much animation. The supply of Barley is limited, and former rates are firmly maintained. There is a steady sale for Oats at former prices. In other articles there is no alteration. The arrivals off the Coast, since our last report, have not been so numerous as was expected, owing to the prevalence of easterly winds; and the demand for Wheat has been sufficient to cause prices gradually to advance. Early in the week, arrived cargoes of Laguarda (Gibraltar) Wheat were sold at 68s. 6d. and 68s.; since then sales have been made at 68s. 9d. and 68s., and one cargo out of condition at 68s. A cargo near at hand has been sold at 63s. Hard Marjanople arrived has been sold at 62s. Polish Odessa, out of condition, at 58s. 6d. Saidi at 47s. 4s. to 49s., all cost, freight, and insurance for the United Kingdom, and one Saidi at 46s., cost, freight, and insurance to the Continent. Saidi Wheat on passage at 45s. 4s. 6d. and 47s. 8d., and a cargo of Bohemia Wheat arrived in fine condition at 45s. Maize continues in good demand at extreme rates. Two cargoes of Ibrail arrived with imperfect report have been sold at 33s., and one at 33s. 6d., Odessa 34s. 6d., and Galatz 36s. For a cargo of Ibrail arrived 34s. has been refused, and one of the same on passage has been sold at 34s. 6d., all cost, freight, and insurance.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
3 per Cent. Red.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
5 per Cent. Consol. An.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Consols for Account	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 3 per Cent. An.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 2½ per Cent.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Long Ann. 1860	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
India Stock	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Ditto Bonds, £1000	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Ditto, under £1000	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Ex. Bills, £1000	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Ditto, £500	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Ditto, Small	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)	
Brasilia Bonds	90½
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cent.	90½
Chilian 6 per Cent.	104
Chilian 3 per Cent.	71
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	64½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	92½
Ecuador Bonds	14
Mexican Bonds	31½
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	77
Portuguese 3 per Cent.	43½
Portuguese 4 per Cent.	107½
Russian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	97½
Russian 4½ per Cent.	43
Spanish	92½
Spanish Committee Cer.	14
of Coup. not fun.	31½
Turkish 6 per Cent.	92½
Turkish New, 4 ditto	90½
Venezuela 4½ per Cent.	90½

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

The public is respectfully informed that this Theatre will RE-OPEN for the Season on MONDAY next, Oct. 13.

The performances will commence with the Original Drama, in three Acts, entitled

"STILL WATERS RUN DEEP."

To conclude with the Comic Drama called

"THE FIRST NIGHT!"

First Price:—Stalls, 2s.; Upper Box Stalls, 4s.; Boxes, 4s.;

Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Second Price:—Upper Box Stalls, 2s.;

Boxes, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d.

Private Boxes, 2s. 2s. 1s.; Family Boxes, 3s. 3s.

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